



Vol. XIII No. 12 *Beth's Newfangled Family Tree* May 2020 Section B

## Back to the future: how Vixy Rae is breathing new life into tartan and tweed from inside Edinburgh's oldest tailor

Barry Didcock **heraldscotland**  
TheHerald | sundayherald

IT'S not everyone who's given the chance to design their own tartan so when the opportunity arose, Vixy Rae didn't need to give it a second thought.

Despite a childhood antipathy to the stuff rooted in the "biscuit tin culture" of Edinburgh's tartan-bedecked Royal Mile, the 45-year-old designer and retailer is now a convert. So much so that she has even written a book about it, *The Secret Life Of Tartan*. In it she runs through some of the myths and untruths that surround tartan, visits those who make and wear it today, and shows how it's promoted and celebrated both as a heritage artifact and as a contemporary textile with universal fashion appeal. The Edinburgh native also charts her own relationship with our world-famous national fabric.

"For me, tartan was Vivienne Westwood and Alexander McQueen, or it was the Royal Mile, and then there was this huge void in between," she explains. "I didn't own anything tartan. I didn't quite get it. I didn't have a strong family lineage, either ... I love fabric, I love colour and I love people, that's always been my career, but I was like: 'Where does tartan sit with me?' I wanted to learn about it and understand it."



*Continued on page 38*



**MEMORIAL**  
REMEMBER AND HONOR **DAY**



A note from your editor:

I decided not to try and list everything that has been cancelled or postponed. We all know that everything is one or the other.

If you have a date for rescheduling your event, please let me know, and I will be sure and print it - NO CHARGE - so that you might have a good crowd at your later date event. Just email: [<bethscribble@aol.com>](mailto:bethscribble@aol.com)

Beth

# Loch Norman Highland Games

New  
2020  
Dates!!

## August 15-16, 2020

# How to Turn Plants Into Tinctures, Like an Ancient Alchemist

## A beginner's guide to extracting flavors from herbs and flowers.

Jessica Leigh Hester, writing for *Gastro Obscura*

Hieronymus Brunschwig had a cure for whatever ailed you, and it all came down to plants. More specifically, it hinged on coaxing things from them.

In the early 1500s, the German surgeon-alchemist was sure that distillation could do some very heavy lifting when it came to human health. Brunschwig believed that distillation — one method of extracting flavors from flowers, herbs, and other plants, by boiling and condensing water — could calibrate the body, which was frustratingly prone to falling out of whack.

A tall order, but Brunschwig was not one to shy away from an encyclopedic effort. In his book, one of the first printed distillation manuals, he arranged plants alphabetically, and noted their sneaky synonyms. He tallied the afflictions that various plants could defeat, and annotated which portions of flowers, stalks, and leaves were especially potent. He even indicated the months when each plant species were at their most formidable.

“Water of lekes,” distilled from roots in June, may be a balm “after the byrth of a chylde,” he wrote. “Water of lettys,” swallowed

at “mornynge and nyght,” could comfort the “lyver.” The book promises drinkable salves for nearly any malady from head to toe, however ineffable. You could distill a remedy for headaches, marital discord, or bad dreams. You might chug some water of dill, or dab a bit on your temples.



Hieronymus Brunschwig or Hieronymus Brunschwygk was a German surgeon, alchemist and botanist. He was notable for his methods of treatment of gunshot wounds and for his early work on distillation techniques. His most influential book was the *Liber de arte distillandi de simplicibus*.

There's a long history here. Ancient Arabic alchemists made tinctures by macerating flowers and herbs, accenting them with spices, and setting them to boil and condense in glass vials over wood fires. By the Middle Ages, distillation was widely practiced by physicians, botanists, and

apothecaries. The Victorians were enamored with tinctures, and during the Prohibition era in the United States, when alcohol was hard to come by, moonshiners applied the principles of distillation to make high-octane booze. (In the U.S., it's still very much illegal to craft your own hard liquor at home, though Americans are permitted to buy and use distillation paraphernalia for other purposes.)

The finished product makes a creative, inexpensive gift. “At this point, you’ve bought a bottle of vodka, plucked some stuff from the garden, and that’s it,” Lohman says. “It’s a very low-risk at-home hobby.” Not to mention a delicious way to tap into an ancient practice, with a modern twist.





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

\* National Trust for Scotland sites



Eisenhower Suite, Culzean Castle



The Hill House, Helensburgh

## PLANNING A TRIP TO SCOTLAND ?

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- **National Trust's** magazine (three issues per year)
- **Scottish Heritage USA** Newsletter (three issues per year)

Memberships range from \$25 to \$500 and are well worth the price! -- JOIN ONLINE

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

# ***Vivid-Pix Announces*** **“Round Tuit!” Education Program —** **Free & Low-Cost Online** **Family History Genealogy Activities** **for Quarantined** **Adults, Kids & Families**

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Classes will be taught by the world’s most respected historians, genealogists, DNA researchers, lawyers, PBS & Travel Channel Genealogy Researchers, and immigration experts.

Savannah, GA, April 2, 2020 — Vivid-Pix <[www.vivid-pix.com](http://www.vivid-pix.com)>, announced today the Vivid-Pix “Round Tuit!” (Get Around to It!) Online Education Program at <<https://vivid-pix.com/education>> that helps people during quarantine with classes priced for free or \$1.99 to organize family photos and learn about their family history with the help of the world’s most respected historians, genealogists, and educators.

The series is hosted by Daniel Earl

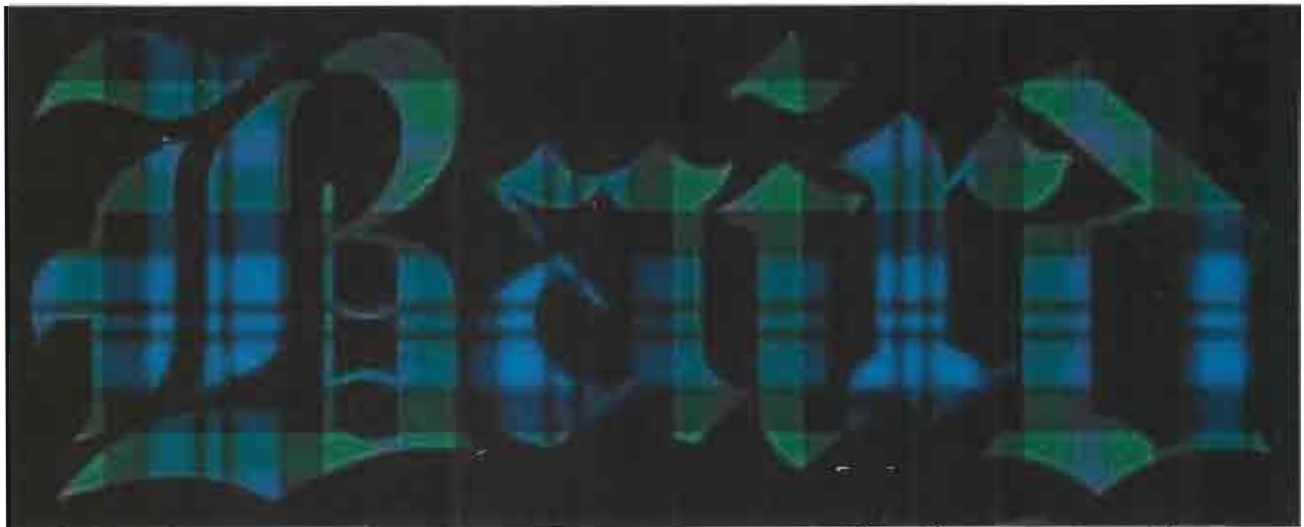


[www.familyhistoryguy.net](http://www.familyhistoryguy.net) and will be broadcast live each Tuesday and Friday evening, starting April 3rd, and available to view on demand at [www.vivid-pix.com/education](http://www.vivid-pix.com/education).



A Scottish schoolboy playing  
“Happy Birthday”  
to his neighbors during  
social distancing.

  
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Society Worldwide, Inc., email: [djbaird4@gmail.com](mailto:djbaird4@gmail.com)

**Come visit us at: [www.clanbairdsociety.com](http://www.clanbairdsociety.com)**

### Clan Baird

Clan Baird takes its name from the ancient lands held by the family, near the town of Biggar in South Lanarkshire. A popular traditional tale is that the lands were given to the first Baird clansman after he saved King William the Lion from a wild boar.





# "THA GAOL AGAM ORT" OR I LOVE YOU

Keith Anderson

With thanks to: *The Argent Castle*,  
The Newsletter of the Clan MacCallum-Malcolm Society of North America, Inc.  
Robin Neill Lochnell Malcolm, Clan Chief

Contact : <clanmaccallummalcolm@gmail.com> for membership information

The Scottish Gaelic way to say "I Love You" (tha gaol agam ort) is far more romantic than its' literal English translation "my love is on you." That same romantic Scottish concept is captured in the culturally historic heart brooches of Edinburgh's Royal Mile.

Heart brooches are as traditional in Scotland as kilt pins or clan badges, but few outside its borders know of their long cultural ties to the country. The designs date as far back as 1503, and are still created and worn today.

Their evolution has developed from simple silver shapes to gem-studded Luckenbooth Brooches.

During the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries there were two main styles of brooches in Scotland; one was the ring brooch, often with incised decoration and used to fasten plaids by both men and women. This design was called a Pennanular. The other brooch was a heart shaped one, often given at weddings and engagements as a love token, and would become known as the Luckenbooth Brooch.

From the eighteenth century onwards, small plain heart shaped brooches were worn to protect against evil spirits, the evil eye or the attention of the sithean (fairy spirits). These are the famous Luckenbooth Brooches.

The name for the Luckenbooth Brooches came from the Gaelic word for the locked booths they were sold in. These were very small shops that were securely locked at night and were a feature of Edinburgh's Royal Mile.

Usually in the shape of a heart or two entwined hearts, symbolizing love, with a crown, symbolizing loyalty, topping the heart(s), the Luckenbooth Brooch is one of the most

romantic Scottish symbols of love.

Throughout the eighteenth and into the nineteenth centuries the Luckenbooth became larger and more elaborate often engraved with the lovers' initials or with biblical or romantic sayings. "Wrong not the heart whose joy thou art" proclaims a heart brooch from about 1700 that is part of the extensive collection at the National Museum of



*Continued on page 9*

# Clan MacCallum – Malcolm Society of North America



A 501(c) (3) Not for Profit Corporation  
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\* Currently, we have 242 Family Memberships in 44 states and Canada. \*  
We will be represented at 35 Scottish Games in 2019. \* We have a Family  
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**Facebook: Clan MacCallum - Malcolm Society**

**Quarterly publication of *The Argent Castle* newsletter**

Membership shall be open to all persons/organizations  
who have a genuine interest in Clan MacCallum-Malcolm.

Piping and Drumming scholarships at the NAAPD sponsored for qualified students.

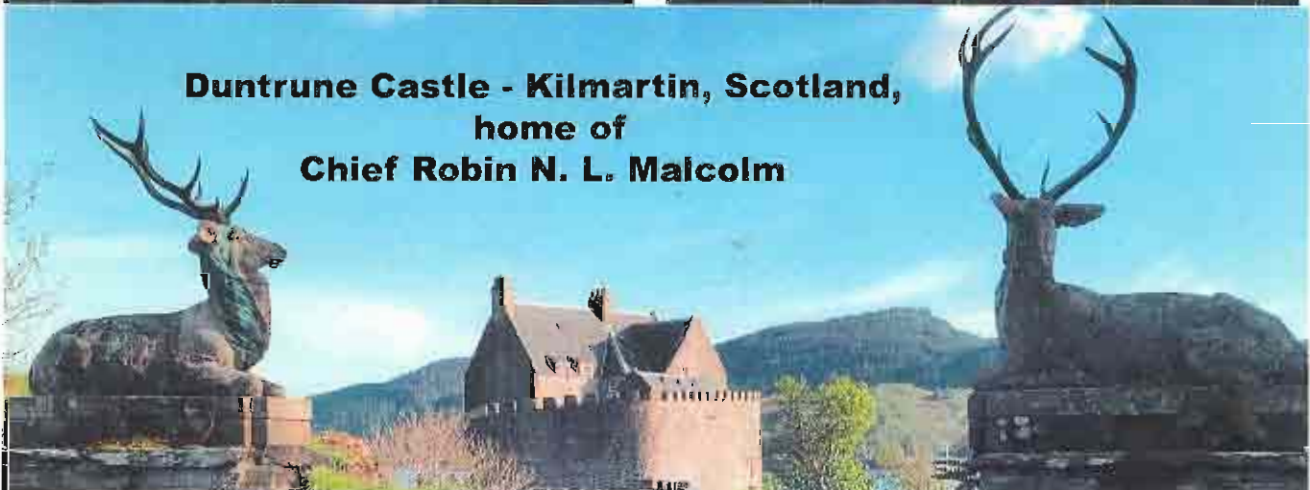
**MacCallum Tartan**



**Malcolm Tartan**



**Duntrune Castle - Kilmartin, Scotland,  
home of  
Chief Robin N. L. Malcolm**





## Luckenbooth Brooches, continued from page 7

Scotland. "My heart you have and yours I crave" says another from the same period.

In addition, a couple may pin a Luckenbooth to their firstborn's blanket as a good luck charm. Among other powers the Luckenbooth was supposed to have, was in the easing the pain at child-birth and ensuring the good flow of breast milk when it was pinned to a woman's petticoats near her left thigh. If pinned to the baby's shawl, it would protect the child from being stolen by the aforementioned *sithean* (fairy spirits).

The decades of Scottish repression that followed the failed Jacobite Rising of 1745 were diminishing by 1822, when King George IV visited the country at the invitation of Sir Walter Scott, the novelist. He was the first British monarch in almost 200 years to go to Scotland, and caused a public sensation by appearing in Highland dress in Edinburgh. "Everyone wanted Scottish jewellery," wrote Shirley Bury in "Jewellery 1789-1910: The International Era," noting that the passion for Scott's romantic novels (*Waverly*, *Rob Roy*) and poems also put a strain on the trade's production capabilities.

The fad only intensified after Queen Victoria ascended to the British throne in 1837. She and her husband, Prince Albert, first traveled north in 1842 and returned for additional visits before purchasing the Highland estate of Balmoral in 1852.

Peter George Wilson, a successful Inverness

silversmith, would be summoned to bring a tray of his work to show the queen at Balmoral or at Dunrobin Castle, where she visited the Sutherland family, said Kari Moodie, the curator of collections at the Inverness Museum and Art Gallery. — and heart brooches were probably among the selection.

Surprisingly, silver Luckenbooth Brooches were a popular trade item with Native Americans in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, especially the Iroquoise Nations.

The design remains a traditional jewelry accessory and is even called Luckenbooth by contemporary Native Americans.

Until the 19<sup>th</sup> century, heart brooches were worn by ordinary people, as evidenced by their simple design and plain appearance. For example, they didn't appear in early Scottish portraits, as a catalog for a 1991 major exhibition of Scottish jewelry at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery noted, because such paintings were commissioned by the wealthy. But by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the brooches had transformed into elaborate decorative pins, often enameled or set with gemstones. Less expensive versions of the Luckenbooth continued to be available as the Industrial Revolution made mass production possible.

Notably, from 1850 onwards, the intertwined hearts were made to resemble the letter "M." These came to be called Mary's Brooches or even Holyrood's Brooches for Mary Queen of Scots' whose husband, Lord Darnley, had given her one.

They are perfect for any gifting occasion.





## LOVE TARTAN...?

The Scottish Tartans Authority is a registered charity based in Scotland and we are the only organisation dedicated to the preservation, promotion and protection of tartan. We would love you to join us as a member and support our worthy cause...



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# Genealogists' guide to searching at home during Covid-19

Bryan L. Mulcahy, MLS

The current stress related to the Coronavirus outbreak is a serious matter. Health officials urge us to stay at home. For positive mental health we need to keep occupied, preferably with something that provides a sense of happiness and accomplishment. Genealogy research is one way to accomplish both scenarios. For most people, working on family history can be a very fulfilling experience.

Perhaps you are a beginner who has thought about starting to work on your family history but never acted on your impulse. There are a number of online tutorials, websites, and YouTube video links that can help you begin the process. Some of these are listed below:

## F a m i l y

Search – Beginning Genealogy Resources and Tips  
[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family\\_History\\_for\\_Beginners](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_for_Beginners) [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/New\\_to\\_Genealogy\\_-\\_Beginners\\_First\\_Step](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/New_to_Genealogy_-_Beginners_First_Step)  
[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How\\_to\\_Begin\\_a\\_Search\\_for\\_Your\\_Anccestor](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Begin_a_Search_for_Your_Anccestor)

Google or YouTube Tutorials – Note: If you type “Beginning Genealogy” in the search field, it will bring up numerous videos and links.

Beginning Genealogy – Midwest Genealogy Center - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Cp1RbfExdk>

Genealogy For Beginners – My Heritage - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbAbZilrqF8?>

Major genealogical institutions such as the Allen County Library's Genealogy Department

offer pathfinders and study guides that can be downloaded. The website is <http://www.genealogycenter.org/docs/defaultsource/resources/aboutusbrochure.pdf?sfvrsn=2>.

Perhaps you've done research but put the follow-up on the back burner. Now is the perfect time to get started again. Here are some tips:

1. Begin sorting through those papers, notes, and email that have been piling up. Develop a plan for organizing the items you've collected.

2. Watch a genealogy webinar. YouTube is an excellent source to locate these programs

3. If you have a favorite ancestor, begin writing a biographical sketch of the person, or at least make notes describing what you remember about that individual.

4. Begin to re-establish contact with relatives, neighbors, and others who have family information.

5. Explore the electronic resources available through your local and/or regional genealogy library.

6. If you feel your research skills are a bit rusty, follow some of the strategies suggested previously for beginners.

I have compiled multiple study guides on this topic. If you would like to receive electronic copies, feel free to contact me at the email address listed below.

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





# clankeith-usa.org

Official website of The Clan Keith Society USA, Inc

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

Associated Family Surnames (Septs) with Mac or Mc prefixes and spelling variants include: Austin, Cate(s), Dick, Dickie, Dicken, Dickson, Dicson, Dixon, Dixson, Falconer, Faulkner, Harvey, Harvie, Hackston, Haxton, Harvey, Hervey, Hurrie, Hurry, Keath, Keech, Keeth, Keith, Keitch, Keithan, Keyth, Kite, Lum, Lulgair, Marshall, Urie, Urry.

The Clan Keith Society would be delighted for you to join us as a member. For more information, please email [secretary@cksusa.org](mailto:secretary@cksusa.org) or [jkeith417@aol.com](mailto:jkeith417@aol.com). Call 256-270-8967.



Dunnottar Castle, stronghold of the Keiths (near Stonehaven)

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





*In Scotland, Blair Drummond Safari Park asked the public to help name two 18-week old lion cubs in a social media appeal. The winning names for the two cubs are "Faith" and "Hope."*

## Clan Ramsey International, Inc., at 2020 Central Florida Scottish Games, Winter Springs, Florida

Rhonda Ramsey Shackelford and Dick McGraw

Join! Clan Ramsay International, Inc., 434 Skinner Blvd./Dunedin, FL 34698



Prospective member Linda Shotsberger and President Dick McGraw.



Ewan Ramsey Brown and wife Lexie with Ronda Ramsey Shackelford



Over 30,000 folks attended these great games!





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## COULD BE ONE OF US!

**Allied Families & Septs  
of Clan Grant**

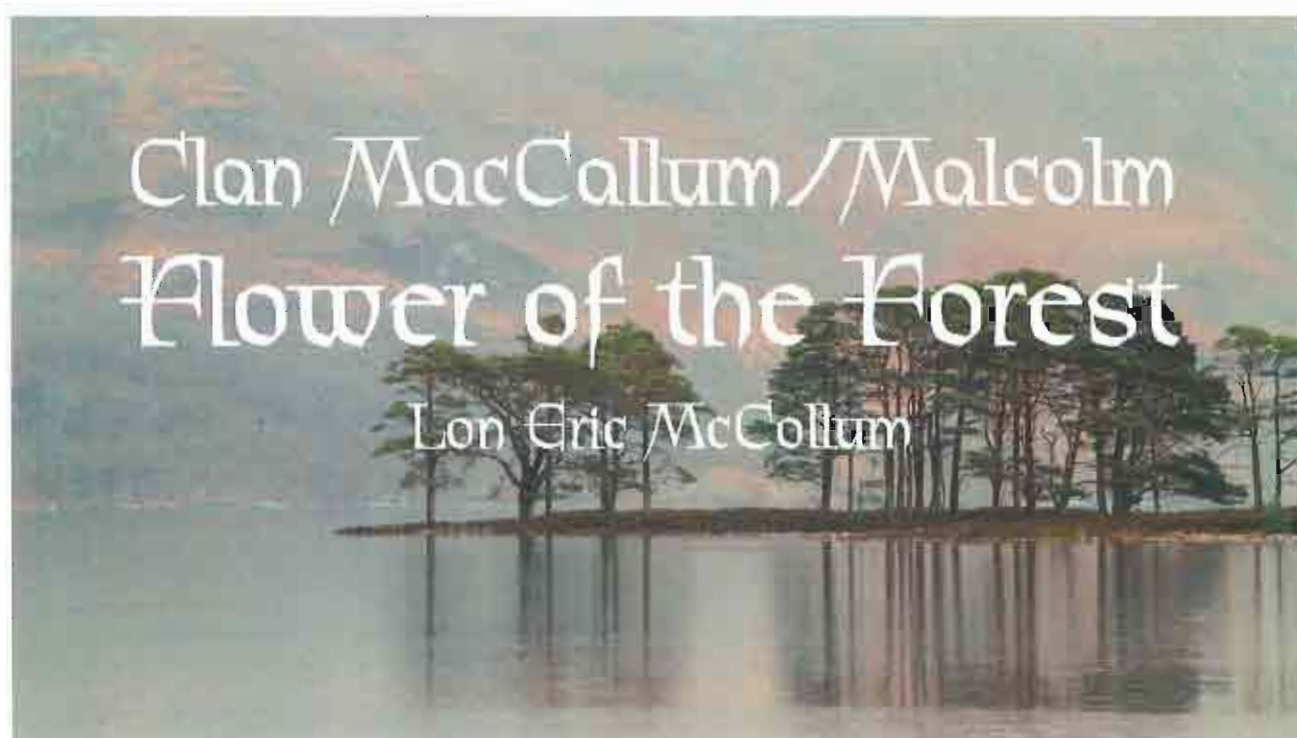
Allan • Allen • Bisset(t) • Bowie  
Buie • Gilroy • MaccAllan  
M(a)cGilroy • M(a)cilroy  
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**IT'S GREAT TO BE A  
GRANT!**

[www.clangrant-us.org](http://www.clangrant-us.org)







Lon Eric McCollum crammed a lot into life and touched the lives of many people. Unfortunately his life was cut short with a swift battle with melanoma cancer.

His life was dedicated to making this world a better place to live for anybody he came in contact with; as a husband, father, son, brother, teacher, coach, basketball player, band member, friend, musician ... and the list goes on.

Lon Eric was involved as a Clan MacCallum/Malcolm member. When "Little" Lon's father, "Big" Lon was involved with the Clan as tent host, scholarship coordinator, vice president and president...they were all family commitments and efforts. Lon E and his brothers shared their extensive understanding of Scottish Culture as they hosted Clan tents at Alma and Detroit. They were a part of Highland Games around the country.

Another less observable role was in 2009 when a group of Clan members attended the Gathering in Edinburgh. A part of that plan was for the

Clan group to stop by Duntrune Castle for the Annual General Meeting and Banquet. Knowing there had to be preparation for the Duntrune visit weeks before the meetings we made many phone calls across the Atlantic to Chief Robin and his son Andrew.

Our family arrived at Duntrune and stayed at Andy's Ardifuir a week early.



It was our pleasure to help with arrangements for the AGM, at Duntrune's historic St Columba Chapel, and banquet, at Ardifuir, with Chief Robin, Trish, Andy and Lucy.

Lon E and Andy and Lucy (then Andy's fiancé), with Robin's support, worked like beavers behind the scenes, planning and preparing, including hauling tables and chairs and whatever else was needed from (and back to) surrounding communities.

Even when an unregistered family showed up at the banquet, it was Lon E and Andy who quietly found space for them. (From Indigo McCollum in Thailand, Lon E's daughter)

*Continued on page 17*



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If you would like to advertise your business or activity,  
please contact Rich and/or Rita at the above contact points for particulars.



## Flower of the Forest, *continued from page 15*

Lon E was a man of the world. He spent his life exploring the planet and bringing people light along the way. For him, home was where the heart was. Lon was a philosopher; on his travels you would often find him chatting away with a new friend about the meaning of life, usually over an ice-cold beer.



Lon was a teacher; he will be remembered through the hundreds of students that he has inspired along the way. He taught his students to love literature and, more importantly, that it was okay to always be your kooky self, no judgment. Lon was a jokester; even to the end of his life he made everyone around him laugh, even to his bad jokes.

Most importantly, Lon was a family man; he loved his tribe to the end of the earth and they loved him back.

*(From a former student in Thailand who became a teacher in Bangkok)* Lon E went above and beyond in all areas of his life. Although it was too short, he positively impacted countless lives while he was here. Integrity, compassion, and trust are a few of the many values Lon embodied. He always did the right thing, even when it was tough and when he had to make sacrifices, and he did it without complaint. He would identify a need and take it upon himself to fill that void, helping our community flourish.

Community members always knew Lon provided a safe space for anyone to voice their concerns and to process, without fear of being judged.

Lon was many things to many people in our community.

In the time he was here, he lived so deeply that he truly did live a full life.

How fortunate we all are to have crossed paths. "To our friend, our teacher, our colleague, our coach: we are who we are today, in part, because of you."

Submitted in loving memory by  
Dad and Mom  
Lon S and Marian McCollum



## Central Florida Scottish Highland Games 2020

Three Clan Sutherland Society North America Presidents: Left to right: Former CSSNA President, Howard Topp; Current CSSNA President, Gene Sutherland and former CSSNA President, Ken White.



President Gene Sutherland with the Clan Sutherland group at the 2020 CFSHG.



Confido "I trust."

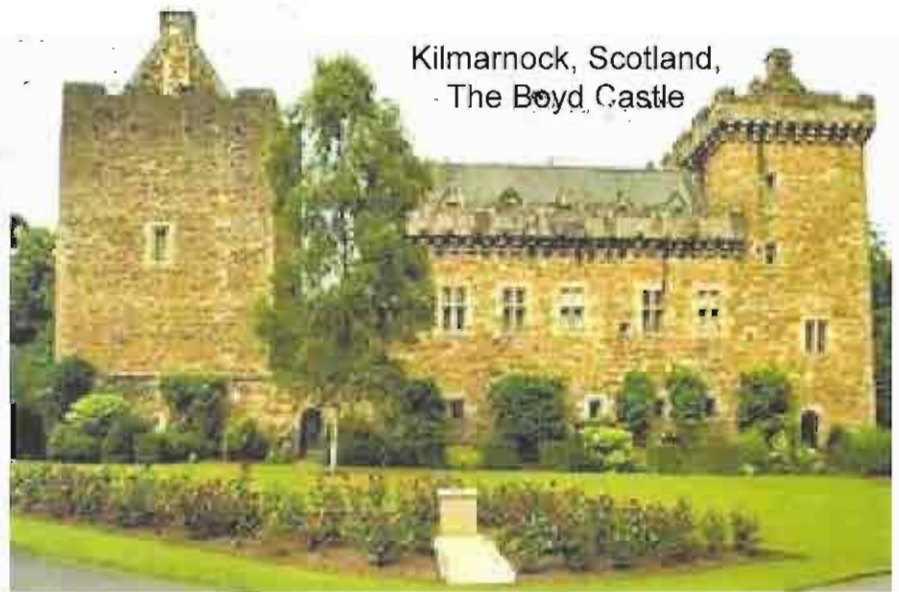


*Come join us  
during our*

*30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year by joining the  
House of Boyd Society.*



# House of Boyd Society



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The Boyd Castle

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**<https://www.facebook.com/groups/7644244762>**







*Professor Roy McClelland*

## Clan MacClellan proudly announces Roy McClelland Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Professor Roy McClelland was honored at the Royal College of Psychiatrists annual awards ceremony in London. As Professor of Mental Health at Queen's University School of Medicine, he was responsible for undergraduate teaching in psychiatry and was greatly involved in postgraduate psychiatry training. A consultant psychiatrist at Belfast City Hospital, he also co-chaired the Bamford Review which has helped modernize mental health services in Northern Ireland.

After the Good Friday Agreement, he was involved in two major civil society ventures. He chaired the Healing Through Remembering initiative, addressing the legacy of individual and communal trauma around the Troubles, and was also a trustee of the Northern Ireland Centre for Trauma and Transformation, which provided psychotherapy for victims of the Omagh bombing.

Internationally, he was responsible for the development of European Standards in Confidentiality for which he was awarded the Geneva Prize for Human Rights in Psychiatry.

Speaking about the award, Professor McClelland said: "I have had a very privileged career, during which time I have met and worked with many wonderful people. It has been a very fulfilling and rewarding journey." ([www.irishnews.com](http://www.irishnews.com))

### **You're invited to join Clan MacLellan**

Today Clan MacLellan is a growing organization with membership throughout the world. Our objective is to extend the kinship between all MacLellans everywhere. Membership in Clan MacLellan is open to all MacLellans and anyone with MacLellan ancestry; an associate membership is also available. Upon joining Clan MacLellan, you will be asked to submit as much genealogy information as possible about your MacLellan ancestry for cross reference and entry into the Clan genealogical database. Listed below are the membership options with their benefits. Although the memberships themselves bring benefits, the best and most lasting benefit of all is the camaraderie and feeling of extended family you will enjoy with other MacLellans everywhere.

Think on and take the next step

**Contact:** <[Treasurer@Clanmaclellan.net](mailto:Treasurer@Clanmaclellan.net)>





An Grian Ceann Cinnidh

# **Hear Ye, Hear Ye,**

**All MacEanruig's  
are invited to explore the  
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Society**

Alistair of Fordell, our Chief, has tasked the  
Society to help him "Gather My Kinsmen."

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# Gung Haggis Fat Choy

Seattle, Washington

Robert Burns and Chinese New Year? An unusual combination of cultures? Maybe not.

Clan Donald USA Commissioner for the Pacific Northwest Region Chuck Larsen and Deputy Henry Phillips initiated a goal of greater interactions with other cultures...and this was a great opportunity to do so.

This event is in its 16<sup>th</sup> year. The Chinese have a registered Tartan and they have in common long held Scottish clan traditions. The Scots and Chinese were essential to building the various continental railways and both are entrepreneurial and frugal. So, they are not so unusual together after all.

Clan Donald USA participated in this annual event that raises funds for both youth groups. Both the Chinese and the Scots put on several displays of dancing, drums and piping.

The haggis was piped in and then the dinner was ten courses of various Chinese cuisine.

Both traditions were well represented by youth. Attendees from both cultures, including representatives of the Taiwan Embassy,



spoke and participated in the the events.

Stay Curious,

Dick Ireland, Deputy State CDUSA Commissioner

Spring Issue Clan Donald USA ~ North Pacific Region March 2020

## THE 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL COASTAL HIGHLAND GAMES Saturday, November 14, 2020

8 AM/5 PM \* Grande Dunes Marina Park

8201 Marina Parkway  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577



<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-coastal-highland-games-tickets-94922454617>

*Beth's Newfangled Family Tree May 2020 Section B Page 21*





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quality of the properties, including furnishings are of the highest order and value on offer.

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*Hope Vere Anderson & Family*

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# Good things to do while we're all at home, thanks to Clan Lindsay!

While you are keeping safe and healthy under the latest circumstances, this provides a great opportunity to research and share your family history. Here are some tips:

- Check Your Inventory. Go over old scrapbooks and genealogy notes. You may discover a new location to research or photos you never knew you had.

- Further Your Research. All your usual online sources are still available to you. Update your online family tree, search that database or find a new website to explore.

- Share that story. Write up your research in a shareable format. Then send it out.

- Do Group Research. Divide and conquer those genealogy leads. Set up a Google drive or similar for sharing. Scan photos and documents for preservation and sharing.

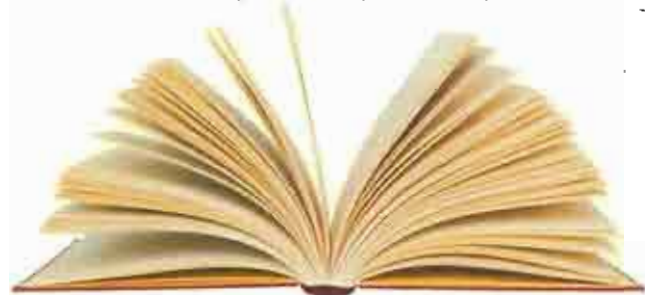
- Reach across generations. Got kids? Time to share (or create) a family tree. Call an older relative and ask them about his/her life. At home with an older relative? Go through those scrapbooks and have them tell you about it. Label photos with names, dates, locations and occasions (future generations will thank you!)

**Brenda Lindsay CA, Clan Genealogist**

*Clan Lindsay Recorder*

Sylvia Bridgewater Gaillard

146 Fort Wayne Court, Waleska, GA 30183



## SCOTTISH (YUMMY) CRANACHAN

- \* knob of butter
- \* 250g/9oz mascarpone
- \* 300ml/½ pint double cream
- \* 75ml/2½fl oz whisky
- \* 450g/1lb raspberries
- \* 100g/3½oz jumbo oats
- \* 100g/3½oz light muscovado sugar

Hold back some of the crunchy oats and raspberries for a pretty topping, but don't hold back on the whisky.

1. Put the butter, sugar and oats in a saucepan and stir over a high heat for 4–5 minutes, or until toasted and crunchy. Set aside to cool.

2. Measure the mascarpone and cream into a bowl and whisk until soft peaks form when the whisk is removed from the bowl.

3. Add the whisky, 300g/10½oz raspberries and two-thirds of the cooled oats. Mix until combined, but try to keep the raspberries fairly whole.

4. Spoon into glasses and top with the remaining raspberries and crunchy oats

# Scottish - American Military Society

## General Elijah Clark Post #60



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

You can visit our webpage for more information. The webpage is <<http://www.s-a-m-s.org/>>

Our meeting times, dates and places are to be announced for 2020 soon. In the meantime, please contact Rick Conn, Adjutant, General James Jackson Post #60. Call 1-678-873-3491 or visit his email at <[rickconn@bellsouth.net](mailto:rickconn@bellsouth.net)>

If you attend a Scottish Highland Games look for the SAMS unit which usually acts as the flagbearers for the event. Any of them will be glad to talk with you.



# Scottish - American Military Society



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





## An Ian & Mac Story

# YO! HO! HO!

# A PIRATE'S TREASURE!

Margo Fallis

With thanks to [electricscotland.com](http://electricscotland.com)

Ian and Mac went for a walk along the beach. It was a beautiful summer day. The sun was shining, seagulls were flying to and fro, and the beach grasses were green and blowing in the gentle breeze. "What's that out there?" Ian pointed towards a speck on the water.

Mac put his hand over his eyes to look. The sun was so bright that it was sparkling on the waves and made it difficult to see. "It looks like a boat. It's the funniest looking boat I've ever seen though. It has sails. Och no! Look at the flag! It's a pirate ship."

"A pirate ship? There are no pirates anymore, are there?" Ian questioned.

"There's at least one and they just lowered a rowboat. Let's hide behind this sand dune and watch," Mac urged. The two raccoons hid as a small boat headed for shore. Five men jumped out. "They are pirates, Ian. Look at their clothes," Mac whispered.

"They look funny. Who wears striped socks anymore and hats like that?" Ian giggled.

"Pirates! They must have been on a deserted island or something and don't realize what year it is," Mac said softly.

The pirates started shouting at each other and then two of them lifted a huge chest out of the small boat. "It's a treasure chest," Ian said. "Do you think it's full of food?"

"It might be. Let's watch and see what they do with it," Mac said.

*Continued on page 27*

**Are you an Arthur, Carter,  
MacArthur, McArthur or similar  
name? If so, you can become a member  
of the Clan Arthur Association!**



Clan Arthur is worldwide with branches in UK, USA, Canada & Australia. Our leader is **Chief John MacArthur of that Ilk.**

We welcome new members who are of "Arthur" decent or those interested in our clan who are prepared to be loyal to our Chief. Membership includes a quarterly magazine which is full of stories about the Clan around the world, articles on current events, ancestry & history. Members also receive ongoing newsletters & updates on local happenings within their community.

For information & how to join, see our website [clanarthur.website/](http://clanarthur.website/)

**Contacts:**

**UK:** Chief John & Lorraine MacArthur [arthurofthatilk@btinternet.com](mailto:arthurofthatilk@btinternet.com)

**USA:** Joann Helmich [caausamembership@gmail.com](mailto:caausamembership@gmail.com)

**Canada:** Lloyd K. McArthur [mcartld@shaw.ca](mailto:mcartld@shaw.ca)

**Australia/NZ:** Carol MacArthur Budlong [carolmcarthur18@gmail.com](mailto:carolmcarthur18@gmail.com)



**Chief John Alexander MacArthur of that Ilk**



The raccoons watched as the pirates began to dig a deep hole in the sand. "What are they doing?" Ian wondered. "They're digging a big hole but what for? Surely they're not going to put the treasure chest filled with food in there, are they?"

"Quiet, Ian. They've stopped digging. Och, aye, they're taking a break. We'd better move. They're coming our way," Mac said.

Ian and Mac scurried further down the beach and hid behind a cluster of trees. "They're drinking something now and singing songs. I think they're tired. When they fall asleep, why don't we go and open the treasure chest and take the food. They'll never suspect us," Ian said.

"Good idea. There we go. They're all falling off now. Come on, quietly though. I'd hate to have them catch us. They might make us wear their socks. Hee hee," Mac chuckled.

Ever so quietly, the two raccoons crept towards the treasure chest. "The pirates are snoring, Mac," Ian giggled.

When they reached the chest, the two of them lifted the lid. "GOLD!" Ian shouted. "JEWELS! This isn't treasure. It's not food."

"Quiet! You'll wake them up," Mac cautioned, but it was too late.

"Well, lads, ye've found our treasure chest. Trying to sneak a little for yourselves were ye," one of the pirates said.

"YIKES!" Ian gulped.

The pirate pulled a sword out of his pants. "I'll show ye what we do to raccoons who try to steal our treasure," he shouted and raised the sharp blade into the air.

"YIKES!" Mac shouted.

The two raccoons didn't wait another second.

They ran as fast as they could into the woods. "I'll get ye," the pirate shouted and ran after them.

Ian and Mac ran, and ran, and ran, and ran, and didn't stop until they were back at their tree. "Do you see the pirate, Mac?" Ian whispered.

They looked down. "No, I don't think he came this far into the woods."

"I'm staying up here for a week, until I'm sure those pirates are gone," Ian shivered in terror. And they did just that. For a solid week Ian and Mac sat up at the top of their tree.

"I think they're gone now," Mac said one morning. "We should go down to the beach and see though, and make sure."

"What if they're there?" Ian shook.

"I don't think they will be. Let's go," Mac said. "I'm hungry and need a walk."

Hesitantly, the two of them headed for the beach. Whenever Ian heard a noise, he ran and hid. "Stop it right now," Mac said. "You're acting like a baby. Come on, we're nearly there."

They reached the beach. Mac peeked over the sand dune. The ship was gone. "We're safe. No sign of the pirates."

Relieved, Ian stood up. There was no ship, no pirates, no swords and no treasure chest. "I wonder if they buried the treasure chest," Ian said.

"Let's go and have a look,"

Mac urged. They walked towards the spot where the pirates had dug their hole. There was a mound there. "Yep. It looks like they did bury it, but what do we care. It's only gold and jewels. There's no



Continued on page 29



## FLYING HERALDRY



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**Thomas Freeman,**

**FSA Scot**

[trf@cockspurherald.com](mailto:trf@cockspurherald.com)

706-839-3881







food."

"You're right, Mac. Let's forget about it then and go find some berries for breakfast," Ian said. As he searched through the woods around the beach he heard a noise. He turned around and there was a Jolly Roger flag with its skull and cross bones. "YIKES!" he shouted and ran as fast as he could, passing Mac. "It's the pirates."

Mac ran behind him and they went all the way back to the tree. "You saw the pirates?" Mac asked, out of breath.

"Well, not exactly. It was a flag with a skeleton face on it, but it scared me," Ian said, quite embarrassed.

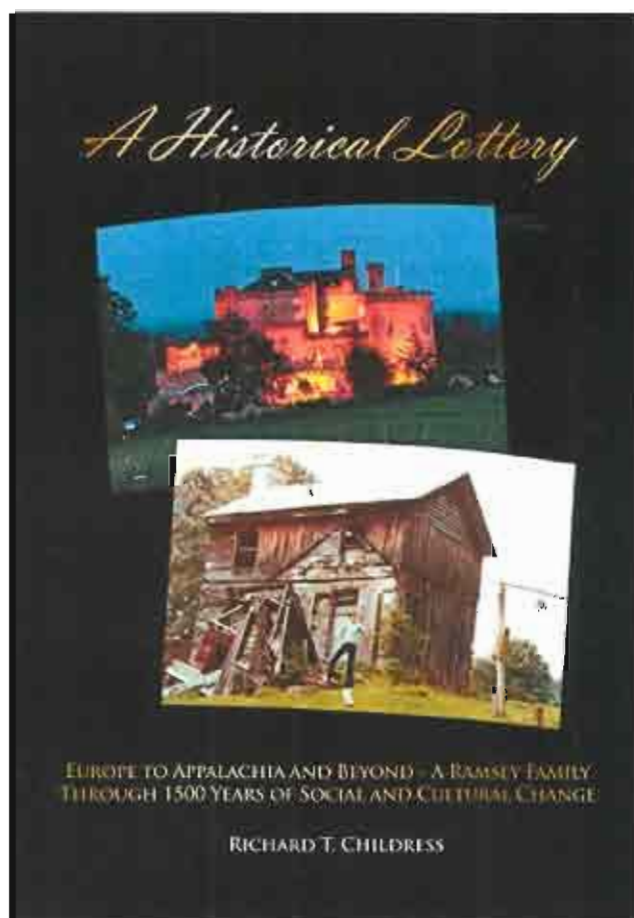
"Ian! I'll be right back," Mac said. He ran down to the beach, found the Jolly Roger and brought it back to the tree.

"What have you brought that thing back here for?" Ian said. "I don't like it."

"There's no use in leaving it there to rot in the waves and wind. We can use it to keep the rain out," Mac smiled.

That night, as Ian lay on the branch trying to go to sleep, the face on the flag kept looking at him. "I can't sleep, Mac. Not with that skull looking at me. Turn it over the other way."

Mac, seeing he had no choice, if he wanted any sleep that night, switched the skull so it faced the sky. Finally, Ian fell asleep. Mac thought about the pirates and the treasure chest and how sad it was that there hadn't been food in it, and then joined Ian for a good night's sleep.



## Looking for a good book? Here 'tis!

Fellow Ramsay Clan Members and Friends...

One of our clan members has written what I think is a very good book about Ramsay/Ramsey history going back several hundred years. It is a book I think you should be aware of and perhaps would like to read.

The Book is entitled *A Historical Lottery with the subtitle of Europe to Appalachia and Beyond—A Ramsey Family Through 1500 years of Social and Cultural Change*. It was written by Richard Childress.

Richard Childress is a retired military and government executive and he began working on this book some 40 years ago.

About the title, he says "[The title] emerged as I reviewed the final draft and realized each generation did not choose their genes, their parents, or

*Continued on page 31*



# CLAN BUCHANAN

## SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL, INC.

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

**<info@theclanbuchanan.com>**



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Donleavy	Lenny	Mackibbon
Dove, Dow	Macaldonich	Mackinlay
Gibb(s)(y)	Macalman	Mackinley
Gibbon	Macandeior	Macmaster
Gibson	Macaslan	Macmaurice
	Macaslin	Macmorris
	Macauselan	Macmurchie
	Macauslan(in)	Macmurphy
	Macausland	Macneur
	Macauslane	Macnuir
	Macalman	Macquat
	Macalmon(t)	Macquattie
	Macammond	Macquattiey
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	Macchruiter	MacQuinten
	Maccolman	Macwattie
	Maccolwan	Macwhirter
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	Maccommon	Masters
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Risk  
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Spittal  
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Walter  
Walters  
Wason  
Sasson  
Waters  
Watson  
Watt  
Watters  
Weir  
Wuill  
Wool  
Wule

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



Write to the president, David Byrne,  
at **<david.byrne@theclanbuchanan.com>**



## Ramsay book, continued from page 29

their geographic location of birth and were subject to the vagaries of political and cultural change and disease that preceded them. Each birth was a new beginning but the initial circumstances were a matter of chance....The promise of America was that you could 'write your own script', but the starting line was the result of the lottery of life before you arrived." Thus, *A Historical Lottery*.

The book is thoroughly researched and filled with rich personal and familial anecdotes, oral histories and colorful characters. It leads us through a wide range of cultural changes, history, economics and politics that occurred over in northern Europe, the British Isles and the American frontier. Where possible and known, Ramsey's roles are woven into the upheavals, change, growth, turmoil, politics, war and religion. The Ramsey name was found as far back as the 10<sup>th</sup> century and the Ramsey Abbey in 974 AD in Huntingdonshire, England.

It is an enjoyable romp through centuries of Ramsey related history with a focus on a particular Ramsey family in the 18th and 19th centuries in Virginia and West Virginia.

Ramsay family history is much more detailed in the sections of the book that cover the early migration to America of Scots and Irish in the late 1600's through the 1700's and 1800's including

both the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. The book contains never-before-published material on the Civil War in Appalachia that deeply affected the Ramsey family. Childress has retained Ramsey lists from Revolutionary War records, tax lists, land records and other sources that he thought could be useful in tracing tracing family heritage. In addition, numerous collateral relatives were enumerated in the text, genealogical tables and cemetery lists.

The author says, "This work is as much a social history as family history and combines sociological and historical studies supplemented by oral history."

*A Historical Lottery* is obviously a book of love—love of his family, a love of history and a yearning to make a connection to the past. I found it to be a most enjoyable exploration.

The book includes 750 pages of text, photos, maps, index, and bibliography. It is available at Dorrance Publishing Co., 585 Alpha Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15238 for \$38.00. To order, call 1-800-788-7654. You can reach the author at 33 Perseverance Pathway, Hendersonville, NC 28739. (The book is also available at Amazon.com.)

*Ora ed Labora*

Dick McGraw, President  
Clan Ramsay International  
dick2016@me.com



If you would like complete information on how to join the great Clan Ramsay International, just contact Clan Membership Chair and Treasurer, David F. Ramsey. Contact him: 434 Skinner Blvd., Ste. 105, Dunedin, Florida 34698. Call 727-409-4639.



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

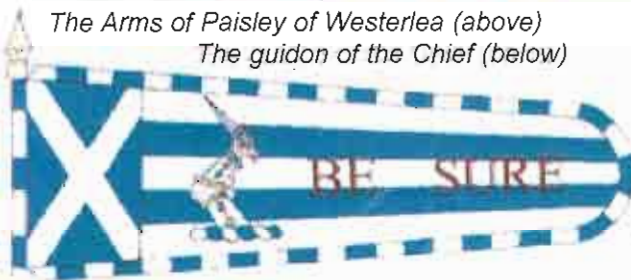


All Paisleys of the name or blood (and all spellings) are invited to join. Email: <mbrown2205@aol.com>

Paisley Family Society USA  
Branch, FaceBook account  
can be found at [https://  
www.facebook.com/Paisley-  
Family-Society-USA-branch-  
195070730565352/](https://www.facebook.com/Paisley-Family-Society-USA-branch-195070730565352/)



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



### **Paisley Family Association**

of North Carolina

president: **Don Paisley**

Email: [paisley47@aol.com](mailto:paisley47@aol.com)

**Celebrating**

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

For the Paisley **DNA Project**, visit  
<[dlangsto@yahoo.com](mailto:dlangsto@yahoo.com)>

Check out the  
**Clan Paisley Society** webpage at  
<[www.paisleyfamilyociety.org.uk](http://www.paisleyfamilyociety.org.uk)>  
to see what's happening with us this  
year. Contact **Martha Brown** at  
<[mbrown2205@aol.com](mailto:mbrown2205@aol.com)>.

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



## **Fellow Clan Ramsay Members and BNFT readers (with permission):**

I was thinking about what kind of message I might share with you about the issues we face today with the Coronavirus pandemic and how people are suffering and what others are doing about it, and Wayne Premo, our Colorado Commissioner sent me an email he received from Larry Hay, Chief Clan Coordinator for the Colorado Scottish Festival/Rocky Mountain Highland Games in Edgewater, Colorado. Hay sent an email to those who participate in those games that I think needs to be repeated. It has to do primarily with the scheduling of those Colorado games but it also deals with more important matters—so important that I thought I should share his thoughts with you. He says it better than I could.

*"Hello Clans & Families;*

*"These are certainly bizarre times we are living in. It seems we went to sleep on Leap Year Night, and woke up in an episode of the twilight zone that is a combination of the black plague of 1350, an atmosphere akin to 9-11, and a global 'time out'. It will be interesting to see how history records this bizarre period...."*

*(two paragraphs about scheduling the Colorado games)*

*"...In the meantime, let us all be safe, healthy, patient and above all, do what we can to help one another as we face these dark times. It is all 'us' now, and to a great degree we are being forced to think and act for the greater good of us all, versus only ourselves. There are countless acts of immense care and kindness going on all around us. Perhaps this world wide 'time out' is a way to give us a chance to reflect about what really matters; and we will come out of this a gentler, more caring and a better people."*

*"Slainte*

*Larry Hay*

*Clan Coordinator*

*CSF/RMHD"*

*Ora et Labora*

Dick McGraw, President  
Clan Ramsay International  
dick2016@me.com



The Ancestral Home  
of the  
Clan Armstrong



# Gilnockie Tower

The 16<sup>th</sup> Century  
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The Ancestral Home  
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Instagram:  
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Gilnockie Tower is on the A7 Edinburgh to Carlisle route, details on our website.:

[www.gilnockietower.co.uk](http://www.gilnockietower.co.uk)

All Border Reiver Families made more than welcome at our tower.

We are open 10.00 AM until 4.00 PM 7 days 1<sup>st</sup> April to end October 2019. We are open 11.00 AM until 3.00 PM daily end October 2019 until end March 2020.

Johnnie Armstrong of Gilnockie Coffee Bar now open.

Please check our website for unforeseen changes to our opening times. : [www.gilnockietower.co.uk](http://www.gilnockietower.co.uk)

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AND JUST LIKE THAT

HAVING A MASK,  
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AND ROPE IN YOUR  
TRUNK IS OKAY

Some signs of our times...



This is Wilson. He is now  
working from home 😊





To see the video visit:  
<https://vimeo.com/401599947>

An impressive replica Declaration of Arbroath was produced for the 30-minute documentary film





# Declaration film goes online for anniversary

Project created  
'at the last minute'  
features Scots stars  
and historians

BY MARTIN HANNAN

A NEW film celebrating the 700th anniversary of Scotland's most important historic document, the Declaration of Arbroath, is going online today.

National columnist Lesley Riddoch and filmmaker Charlie Stuart have teamed up "at the last minute", as she said, to produce Declaration, the letter of liberty.

Riddoch says the letter from Scotland to Pope John XXII was "probably the first declaration in medieval Europe to promote the idea that people are above kings, that

a nation is its people and that any nation has the right to self-determination".

The coronavirus has effectively cancelled all the planned live celebrations of the event in Arbroath and across Scotland, and sadly the political climate appears to have prevented UK broadcasters from scheduling any significant TV coverage.

Riddoch and director and editor Stuart decided to make a 30-minute video for web release, so the anniversary does not go completely unmarked.

The film includes interviews with historians Fiona Watson, Tom Turpie and Billy Kay who discuss the significance of the document and the meaning of the text.

There's atmospheric filming around Arbroath, in Edinburgh and in Bannockburn House, with glimpses of the surviving medieval document in the National Library and a convincing replica.

According to the producers, the public contributed lines from the Declaration recorded on phones and sent to a Facebook page – the most famous contributor is award-winning actor Brian Cox, whose lines were sent from his phone in deepest New York State.

Scots-born Oscar-nominated film composer Patrick Doyle produced an original score after hearing about the project last week in a podcast. The project was made possible by funding from lottery millionaire, Chris Weir.

The film is not associated with or endorsed by any political party. According to Charlie Stuart: "We're making this as Scots who treasure our heritage, history and character and will not let this important moment go unrecognised."

Riddoch said: "We've had the most extraordinary luck with historians and authors who dropped everything two weeks ago to get filming finished before the coronavirus lockdown."

"We're also grateful to Historic Environment Scotland and staff Arbroath Abbey itself for access as they were closing the venue."

"Since then Charlie and I have worked together remotely, along with composer Patrick Doyle. We were absolutely astonished and so grateful for his unexpected offer to produce an original score for the film."

"Now we need everyone's help to distribute Declaration, when launched on Saturday morning – a day that should have been marked by an official parade and march through Arbroath. We have no broadcaster behind us, so we urge Scots to share widely and make the Declaration has a virtual 700th anniversary to remember."

The film, Declaration, the letter of liberty, will be available on social media, on [lesleyriddoch.com](https://lesleyriddoch.com) and via this link which will be live from 9am today: [vimeo.com/401599947](https://vimeo.com/401599947)

**To see the video visit: <https://vimeo.com/401599947>**

As for Rae's self-designed tartan, it came about as a result of her day job and her association with our other world-famous national fabric: tweed. In 2015 she and business partner Dan Fearn took over Stewart Christie, then a stuffy and unloved, if venerable and long-standing Edinburgh tailor, and set about dragging it into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by its elasticated braces.

"It's funny to think that we're now kind of custodians of it," she says, looking around the sedate and pleasantly-cluttered downstairs room which is her main domain and which serves as a showroom for the female clients the company is now drawing in increasing numbers. "I used to walk past and think I'd never go in there, but you know there was so much history and heritage which was just covered in dust. It has been a joy really. It has been a really fun journey."

The company turns 300 next year and as part of the next stage of that journey Rae has come up with a Stewart Christie tartan. It has been designed in-house and woven in Hawick. "I wanted the colours to be something I could wear, because there's not a lot in tartan that I would wear, and I wanted it to tell a story," she says.

To that end she has based it on two greens: the original Racing Green which for decades was the colour of choice for Stewart Christie's shopfront, and the brighter variant which appeared in the late 1970s. To that she has added a powdery blue and three stripes of what she calls "Old Gold", one for each century of business. "Then I've completely weathered it and muted it, so it's like a hunting tartan. And it's so tasteful. I think it's beautiful."

She pulls out her phone to show me a picture of a kilt-in-progress in the new tartan, its knife pleats pinned ready to be sewn and ironed. She also plans to use the tartan in accessories and in

collaborations with the makers of other garments, such as macs. Is there a danger of the company over-extending with its ambitions and, more pressingly, its new tartan? No, she says. The aim is to mark and celebrate the company's three centuries of business and then use the new tartan "subtly and wisely". "I'm not going to splatter it everywhere."

She's right to be mindful of the company's heritage. Stewart Christie is the oldest bespoke tailor in Scotland and, along with Campbell's of Beaulieu, the only one which still makes its suits on the premises. Alexander McCall Smith is a loyal customer, as was Sir Walter Scott before him. The company still has correspondence from the author in its archives.

Other modern day customers include the actors Ewan McGregor and Jack Lowden, and Prince Charles, who recently commissioned a doublet in dark green silk velvet. "Me and Dan did the personal fitting," says Rae proudly. "We went and met him, then we took up

the skeleton fit with the tailor, and then we hand-delivered it. It's absolutely beautiful. We don't have photographs yet but we're waiting. He loves it. He's worn it twice.

"We made for his grandfather and his great-grandfather. We didn't make for his dad because we lost our Royal warrant in the 1970s, but now we've made that I'm looking to get it back."

Clearly, Rae's client list tends towards the wealthy then. "A lot of our customers have two or three houses," she says. "They'll get all their tailoring for the whole family and then they'll come in six months when they're back in Scotland. We have some things that sit on the rail for a year because someone will have something made and then they're away travelling."

She reels off some of the institutions the company services – the Royal Company of Archers,

*Continued on page 39*



STEWART CHRISTIE  
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the R&A, the New Club – and the gilded individuals who are long-standing customers, among them the Duke of Buccleuch and Lord Thurso. Understandably things tend to become rather hectic towards the start of the grouse shooting season on August 12.

But that mixture of tradition and innovation which now distinguishes the company doesn't stop at the front door of its woody premises on Queen Street. On the pavement outside is an old red telephone box which Rae has commandeered and fitted out with wood panelling and an antique phone that actually works.

"They were going to take it away and I said: 'Over my dead body'," she laughs. "You have to buy them through a charity so I approached Save The Children. They paid £1 for it and then sold it to me for £1. So I own it and have the responsibility for it."

She has christened it Gilbert after architect Sir George Gilbert Scott, who designed the iconic kiosks. The plan is to fill it with hats and other dressing-up props and let people inside for selfies in exchange for a £3 charitable donation to Save The Children, payable by text message. And right next door to Stewart Christie is another Rae initiative – possibly Edinburgh's most stylish and eccentric tea-room (or teahouse, as it styles itself).

Rae has christened it *The Chaumer* and installed her 18-year-old son there as a part-time barista. It's doing a roaring trade on the day I visit and through the back is a wonderful, old-fashioned bedroom which is available to rent via Airbnb. Come evening, The Chaumer doubles as a wine bar. It also functions as an ad hoc boardroom for company meetings and get-togethers. Told you it was eccentric.

In a sense, though, it's in keeping with the

woman herself, her background and the spirit with which she has tackled this and previous endeavours.

Rae's was an unusual childhood. Her stepfather is editor and businessman Ewen MacCaig which meant her step-grandfather was the esteemed Scottish poet Norman MacCaig. Home was a bohemian, book-lined flat on Hanover Street, in the city centre and just a few hundred metres from Stewart Christie. The flat adjoined the Edinburgh Wine Bar, the place to see and be seen in the 1980s and early 1990s. MacCaig co-owned it along with another legendary howff and artistic hangout, The Doric.

When she wasn't wandering around the wine bar being given free food by the chefs, Rae attended the Edinburgh Steiner School, an independent school under-pinned by the free-thinking educational philosophies of its Austrian founder,

Rudolf Steiner. Creativity was prized so naturally poetry was on the curriculum – MacCaig's included. One day Rae asked her step-grandfather if he would come to school to talk about it. He said he would.

"He was so sweet," she recalls. "He came to the class and he sat at the front and held my hand and the first thing he said was: 'I feel that if you're all having to study my poetry, then it has all gone tits up.' It was just because he wasn't a big academic. He didn't enjoy school. He thought you should just enjoy poetry, you shouldn't have to study it."

Rae left school at 17 and headed first to Telford College, where she did a foundation course, and then Napier University, to study photography. She didn't last long. "I just didn't enjoy it," she

Continued on page 40





# OH, CANADA!



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says. "It was just breeding wedding photographers".

A self-styled 'Skate Betty' – slang for a girl who enjoys skateboarding – she was more interested in photographing graffiti and skate kids than she was in mastering composition or darkroom techniques. And it was skateboarding which first took her into retail, with a shop on the city's Candlemaker Row selling clothes to the skaters who frequented nearby Bristo Square.

Rae later took on Glasgow's Dr Jives and opened Odd One Out on Edinburgh's Victoria Street, from where she sold cult labels such as A.P.C and Manhattan Portage in premises now occupied by outfitters Walker Slater. Her steady hand was involved in that enterprise too, spending six years there during the hipster boom that put brogues, Baker boy caps and tweed suits at the top of the modern man's list of fashion must-haves. And it was there that she met Fearn, a 15-year-veteran of the company and the head designer in its menswear department.

What happened next saw both Fearn and Rae leave Walker Slater a short time apart. Both had their reasons. "It was not a great departure," says Rae matter-of-factly. "My time was done and I'm proud of what I designed there, but I needed to come out". But when Fearn heard of the upcoming retirement of Duncan Lowe, the fourth generation of his family to run Stewart Christie, he pounced. Sort of, anyway. As Rae tells-

it, Lowe hung up on Fearn the first time he called with an offer to buy, only relenting gradually in follow-up conversations.

When the pair did finally take over, the company had 11 workers. It now has 27 and, as well as increasing the number of employees, Rae is expanding the company's premises, its business and its influence. She's about to turn a basement area under *The Chaumer* into a new workshop, having acquired eight sewing machines from the woman who used to make up skirts for her from her design patterns. The company is also looking to take over a tie maker which is on the verge of closing

down. And Rae, the first female member of the Incorporation of Tailors of Edinburgh, is involved in a project which will allow fashion students in Edinburgh and Glasgow to undertake a new Scottish Voluntary Qualification in tailoring. Part of it will involve a week's internship at Stewart Christie.

Plans, plans, plans. But as much as she has designs on the future, Vixy Rae will always keep an eye on the past. She returns again to that word "custodian".

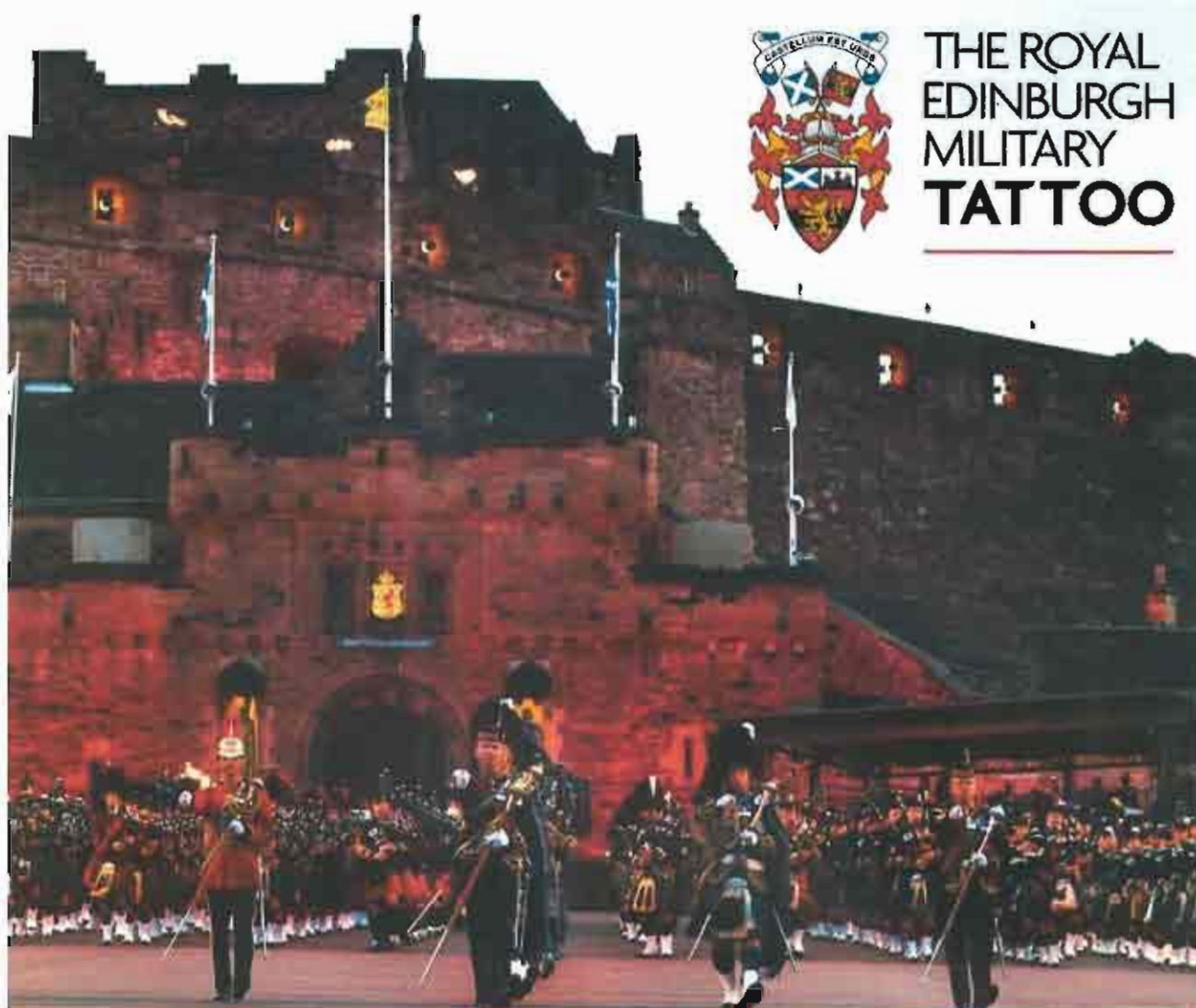
"We need to keep it going," she says of the Edinburgh institution now in her temporary care. "It has been 300 years and we need to keep it going for the next 300 years – and keep it going gracefully and not forget about how we used to shop and how we used to make things and how we used to care about garments. All of that stuff means a lot to me and I'm passionate about it."



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