

# Americans amazing at the World Championships Scottish Highland Games

**Thanks to Jim Walker - a Masters 55+ Athlete himself**

**Masters 55+ athletes**



July 17, 18, 2009 Bught Park - Inverness - Scotland - Heart of the Highlands

Imagine competing in the most physically demanding, technically difficult sport in the world, in the driving rain, on slick wet grass, throwing punishingly heavy weights while spinning or running in eight mandatory events?

Add the pressure of competing against the best competitors in the world from eight different countries and the stage is set for the most memorable Scottish

Highland Games Heavy Events athletics competition in recent history.

A sport whose origins are shrouded in the mists of time, techniques lost to history, and performed by senior men and women in the worst possible conditions. Even competing in snow has not been close to presenting the challenges that confronted eighty-three competitors on the green battlefield known as Bught Park in Inverness Scotland.

*Continued on page 5*

**Congratulations to our Masters 55+ Scottish Athletes!**



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Miss Narra sez:  
It is easy to  
halve the  
fish when  
there  
is love.





# *A letter from your editor...* **Sylvester**

When he came so timidly from under the bushes, he was the cutest little guy. He, even at that early hour of the morning, was dressed formally with his white shirt and shoes and his black tuxedo. I guess he must have been about the size of the palm of my hand - a wee scrap of life, alone and hungry.

As was my habit, I was serving breakfast to the wild cats who lived about my home. Some were regulars at the breakfast table, some were just tourists passing through. The regulars knew that a good meal was to be had and the visitors thought themselves at the height of their good luck to find a free meal.

This morning, there was the tiny little character, meowing and hoping that he had found somewhere safe, warm and dry. I left the dining area in the corner of the yard, but peeked from the window when I went inside so I could know that the little guy was getting enough to eat. He was.

Where had he come from? In the woods surrounding the house were foxes and raccoons and rabbits and opossums...the occasional bob cat and feral domestic cats. They had a hard life although I did my best for them and allowed no hunting on my land.

The next morning, the little dressed up kit was waiting for breakfast with a few of the regulars. The morning after that, he didn't seem quite so afraid. The morning after that, he was comfortable with me serving him his morning repast. By the next week, I could stroke his back.

He was so affectionate and soon he had developed into a handsome young cat who greeted me each



morning with a squeaky, "Meowwww."

Because my property was on a busy highway, I knew he would not survive long if left to his own devices. Besides the highway, there were hawks and owls about...and neighbors dogs who were allowed to roam free to terrorize any felines they found.

By this time, I had named the little cat Sylvester. The busy road was the Sylvester Highway...and the cartoon Sylvester had always been a favorite of mine.

Because former wild cat, Peggie Hairly, and the half Maine Coon and half Siamese cat from the fancy cattery in Florida - Miss Narra The Wonder Cat, were already in residence inside, I moved the young Sylvester first to the screened in front porch. A few weeks being served his own food and sleeping in a soft bed and visiting with Peggy Hairly and Miss Narra through the screen door...taught him that life was good when you did not have to be wary of scary things that might get you.

So, about 15 years ago, Sylvester Highway Barb Wire Flop Cat, became a part of my life. The last parts of his name are simply descriptive of his young behavior. If you stooped to pet him, you'd think your hand had been caught in a barb-wire fence...before he learned to just bat you with his paws, minus the

*Continued on page 7*



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## Championships, Continued from page 1

One and one-half years ago World Champion 'Mighty Mouse' Mike Queternous announced at the Woodland Sacramento Scottish Highland Games that the Masters World Championships were to be held in Edinburgh Scotland as part of the largest games in the history of Scotland in 2009.

The 2009 Masters World Championships were part of Scotland's 'Return to Scotland' Gathering 2009, the largest event in Scotland's history. It was a massive multi-venue happening spread out across the entire country for several months prior to the culminating weekend of July 25th and 26th. The Masters competition was just one segment of Scotland's 'call to all clans and peoples to return to Scotland' known as The Gathering!

From the first day of Mike's exciting announcement, men and women aged 40 to over 70, (yes, men over 70 throwing trees, 42 pound weights over high bars and for distance) all Scottish Highland Games athletes ramped up training and fund raising activities in order to participate in the largest Masters Highland Games competition ever held in Scotland. From California to Georgia and points east, the USA fielded the largest contingent of Scottish Highland Games athletes ever assembled outside the United States.

Before it was over, USA athletes had set 8 new world records, in including a clean sweep in the combined class events by Kristine Stuteville (age 50+) and our own Ray Oster from Nevada who set World Records in the Open and Braemar stone categories. Unbelievably, by the end of the two days all athletes

*Continued on page 7*



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*The international flavor of the games was truly represented by the presence of Kengo Kubota from Japan, Uli Mueller from Germany and USA Masters 55+ athlete, Jim Walker from California.*

---

had all individually thrown over 1,000 pounds total in eight separate events.

The field of battle was beautiful. Bught Park sits on the shores of the beautiful River Ness, it's cold dark waters emptying into the mysterious depths of the world famous Loch! Excellently designed grandstands face a beautifully flat and green infield, which is surrounded by a one-quarter mile track. Beyond the field were dozens of tall white canvas tents filled with an awesome array of foods and goods for sale, product vendors, clan tents, and several thousand spectators, dancers, rocking bands and singers.

And what a field of competitors it was! Scotland, U.S.A., Ireland, Japan, Canada, England, Norway, Germany, Switzerland, and France all sent the best they had to compete in one of the most physically demanding, technically challenging sports in the world!

The magnitude of the records set and championships won takes on incredible significance when we

look at the actual events and the conditions the athletes had to compete in. Besides kilts, bagpipes and it's wonderful people, Scotland is known for it's rain, which graces one of the most beautifully green countries in the world. Hammers went awry, throws slipped and ripped through screens, the rain and resulting slick grass played havoc with every single athlete on the field.

Spread out over Saturday and Sunday, the athletes threw the heaviest athletic implements in the world during constant wind and rain. Imagine trying to pick up a vertical tree eighteen feet long and weighing one hundred fifteen pounds with a constant flow of rain running down its entire length!

Sixty-five year old USA athlete Ray Oster set two world records in his class (see below) by throwing a twenty-three pound Braemar stone and sixteen pound open stone. The open is thrown

*Continued on page 13*



*C l a n  
MacMillan at  
the 2009*

*Grandfa-  
ther Mountain  
H i g h l a n d  
Games.*

### **Letter from your editor, Continued from page 3**

talons that came as standard equipment. After he had you squealing, he would just flop over on his back and beg your forgiveness.

He and Peggy Hairy tussled and played. Miss Narra would deign to regally walk past him...and even would give his sleek black head a "lick and a promise" wash from time to time.

Years passed that weren't so good for me, but very good for the cat-family.

About four years ago, I moved from that little house on the side of the Sylvester Highway and Sylvester, Peggie Hairy and Miss Narra came along - along with Earnest T. Bicket - another little wild kitten that had stolen my heart.

After a few days in the local Cat Hilton Hotel (the vets, where Bicket had his "operation" and everyone had shots) the four of them moved to my house on Rocky Knoll Road. A new set of wild cats and kittens appeared on the back deck - much to the amusement of the four inside kitties.

Life was good for all of us.

Sylvester grew to be a very substantial cat. He would join Miss Narra as I worked each day in my office. This publication has been done to the music of cat purring since its beginning!

As the years passed, Sylvester, became a grand cat whose manners were impeccable and whose love was obvious. He would stand on the bathroom counter, stand up on his hind feet and put his arms around my neck and press

his face into my shoulder...and purr and purr and purr.

I could pick him up under his front arms and his feet would stretch almost to my knees. And he would purr and purr and purr.

When I put my house up for sale, the Realtor said the "cats had to go." They moved to Tom's and the good life continued.

A few weeks ago, I had to go to California for a speaking engagement. As we were leaving for the airport very early that morning, I said, "Tom, it seems to me that Sylvester is breathing heavier than he should. Do you notice that?"

Sylvester then sprinted off to the back of the house and back again to the Cat Buffet in the kitchen and began crunching his Science Diet.

"He must be ok," Tom said. "We'll take him to the vet when you get back though and have the vet

check on him., just to be sure."

Tom said he was apparently ok all weekend.

When we arrived home late the following Monday night, Sylvester had pulled my little neck pillow from the bed and had his head and arms on it and was "asleep" on the floor.. He had passed away in his sleep at the age of about 15. We think his wonderful heart just gave out.

I'm just now able to write about it and am crying even now. He was a little formally dressed package of love his whole life and I miss him terribly.

The price we pay for our cats and dogs and horses love is the grief and sadness we feel when they go on ahead of us. Godspeed, Sylvester!





### ***Our Query of the Month!***

My grandfather was **WALTON MONROE SMITH** born 02/06/1868 (family bible) or 1872 (1900 census statement) in Doerun, GA. He was Mayor of Doerun and ran the bank in the 1930s. He died 10/23/1935 in Doerun. He married **GEORGIA MAE WATKINS**, born 08/22/1882 in Autreyville, GA in 03/04/1900. They had two sons **WALTON MONROE SMITH** born 0/23/1905, and **JOHN WATKINS SMITH**, born 01/13/1910 (my father) and raised a cousin (after her parents died) **WILLIE V. SMITH** born 4/27/1907. **JOHN WATKINS SMITH** married **GEORGIA EARL INABNIT**, born 03/11/1916 in Tampa, FL: on 2/24/1946 in Tampa, FL. They had two sons **MONROE PATTERSON SMITH**, born 4/29/1947, in Tampa, FL and **FRANKLIN WATKINS SMITH** born 01/04/1953 in Key West, Florida. **WALTON MONROE SMITH** married **MARGUERITE** (unknown last name) from Birmingham, Alabama. Her father was a doctor. **GEORGIA MAE WATKINS'** father was **BAKER E. WATKINS**, born 11/08/1858 in Covesy or Coosa County, Alabama. **BAKER E. WATKINS** was married to **JESSIE C. THIERS**, born 07/15/1864 in Florida, on 07/10/1879. **BAKER E. WATKINS'** father was **BAKER E. WATKINS** born (1801) 08/18/1800 in KY. He married (first marriage) **SARAH BERRY** born 07/06/1805, died 12/12/1858, (second marriage) **ELIZABETH OWENS**, born 1823 in Georgia, married 07/10/1860 in Sumter County Georgia. My brothers and I would appreciate any information on any member of the family listed here. Especially on our Grandfather **WALTON MONROE SMITH** and his father, grandfather, etc.

**Franklin W. Smith, 1758 Iverson Way, Sacramento, CA 95835, 530-754-5319, [fwsmith@ucdavis.edu](mailto:fwsmith@ucdavis.edu)**



## A “Soft Day” at The Gathering



During the “Fire Drill” that took place at The Gathering in Scotland - our friend, Ralph Comp is second from left. To his right is Danus Skene, Chief of Clan Skene and to the far right is Malcolm Sinclair, Earl of Caithness. We don’t know who the other two gentlemen are. *With thanks to Ralph Comp for the photo.*



At The Gathering, Malcolm Sinclair, Earl of Caithness, on the left. The background is a 9 foot x 6 foot panel depicting twelve Sinclair Arms with the complete Achievement of Malcolm Sinclair in the center of the panel.

The panel was rendered in the United States by heraldic artist, Tom Freeman of Walhalla, SC.

*Ralph Comp photo.*



## Did you know these things about Columbus and his voyages?

Women were not on the first or second voyage of Columbus. The first women colonists appeared in 1498 when Columbus was allowed to recruit one woman for every ten emigrants on the third voyage.

Columbus introduced horses to the New World on his second voyage. Seventeen ships and over twelve hundred men made up "The Grand Fleet" of the second voyage in 1493.

Thanks to Los Banos Genealogical Society's *The Tree Shakers*, Volume 11, #9.

Page 10 Beth's Newfangled Family Tree Section A September 2009

## Once removed? Twice removed? Once removed? Twice removed? Taking the confusion from cousins!

The term "removed" is a cause for confusion when determining relationships.

What is really meant is that two people are from different generations. For example, you and your first cousin in the same generation.



The term "removed" would not apply to your relationship.

The term "once removed" means that there is a difference of one generation between related family members.

Your mother's first cousin is your first cousin "once removed." This difference in relationship is the fact that you are one generation removed from the cousin.

Think of it this way. The generation starts with your maternal grandparents. Your mother and her cousin are one generation younger than their parents (your grandparents).

# More about tea, delicious tea...

It's as much a part of Scottish life now as whisky, but when it was first introduced it was extremely expensive, exotic and a slightly dangerous drink. The Scottish Establishment's objections to it made it the object of desire in the early 1700s, particularly with women. The afternoon break was then taken at four o'clock, and Scottish ladies would invite their friends to take "the four hours" with them. They sat in the best bed chamber - parlors being a much later innovation - and drank the fancy foreign drink out of china cups, sweetening it with honey. Scotland being known as "the land of cakes," they ate "teabread," (fancy baking), as well.

Tea was hideously expensive, costing four times as much as coffee beans. Much of this cost was tax, introduced to protect Scottish brewers. The everyday drink at the time was ale, drunk by everyone at all times of the day, usually warmed up for breakfast in the winter. Scotland's smugglers were quick to see the opportunity offered by tea and the coasts of Ayrshire and East Lothian quickly became busy. Although smuggling seems very romantic at a distance, there was a great deal of violence associated with it and people became concerned at its escalation to satisfy the taste for tea.

Times changed. Tea came down in price, and became what it is now, one of Scotland's national drinks. The legendary Miss Cranston must take a great deal of credit for that. By the end of the 19th century, Glasgow had become a great center for the sale of tea. One of the tea merchants was a young man named Stuart Cranston. He was very interested in blending different teas and became known as the "Wizard of

the Leaf." He decided that he would sell more tea if he offered tastings of different blends at two pence per cup. His sister Kate took up the idea and ran with it.

Miss Cranston built up an empire of tea rooms in the city. Men had always been able to meet their friends in pubs. Now women had someplace to go too. Tea at Miss Cranston's became a Glasgow institution and is still enjoyed today at Miss Cranston's Willow Tearooms.



Glasgow was also the birthplace of Sir Thomas Lipton who prospered and built up a fleet of 500 ships. His name is still synonymous with tea in continental Europe. He had the water of major cities in the British Isles analyzed so that the right blend could be made for each place, corresponding to the different taste of the water.

A vile drug? Not any more. It is definitely the cup that cheers.

Thanks to Maggie Craig, *Celtic Heritage*, via *The Bagpiper*, PO Box 1364, Easton, MD 21601-1364.



# FREE genealogical programs in Fort Myers, Florida

The programs listed below will be held at the Fort Myers-Lee County Library during the months of September - December 2009. All programs are free and open to the public. If you cannot attend but wish to receive an electronic copy of the handouts, you may request a copy by contacting me via e-mail.

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

## **Saturdays, September 29, October 3, 10, 17 and 31<sup>st</sup>**

Family History Month Series: Long Distance Research

10:00am-12:15pm

Speakers: **Carolyn Ford**, Lee County Genealogical Society;

**Bryan L. Mulcahy**, Reference Librarian, Fort Myers-Lee County Library

*Session One-September 26, 2009: Long Distance Research Begins at Home*

*Session Two-Saturday, October 3, 2009: Library Research Day*

*Session Three-Saturday, October 10, 2009: Identifying the Location of Your Ancestor's Records-Part One*

*Session Four-Saturday, October 17, 2009: Identifying the Location of Your Ancestors Records-Part Two*

*Session Five-Saturday, October 31, 2009: Using Online Sources for Long Distance Research*

## **Saturday, November 21, 2009**

*Genealogical Research in the New York City Area*

Session One: 9:30-11:30am

Session Two: 12:30pm-2:30pm

Speakers: **Dr. John LaCoste**, Research Fellow, New York Genealogical & Biographical Record;

**Bryan L. Mulcahy**, Reference Librarian, Fort Myers-Lee County Library

This seminar will touch on research topics relevant to the region of New York City. While the main focus will be on the 19<sup>th</sup> century, information will also be provided on the early 20<sup>th</sup> century when the number of immigrants entering through Ellis Island increased dramatically. Our discussion will also touch on repositories in the New York metropolitan area including adjacent counties in New Jersey.

## **Saturday, December 12, 2009**

*DNA and Genealogical Research*

Speaker: **Dr. John LaCoste**, Research Fellow, New York Genealogical & Biographical Record.

Session One – 9:30am-11:00am: DNA Testing and the Research Process

Session Two - 11:15am-12:30pm The Testing Process

Session Three – 1:30pm-2:45pm Consulting, Question, Answers

This seminar will focus on the growing importance of DNA testing to all aspects of the genealogical research process. Dr. LaCoste will discuss many of the new findings that have occurred in the research and testing process since his last lecture on this subject in 2008.



*Masters Heavy Events Athlete Kim Pollard launches a Braemar Stone.*

like a standard shot put, but the 23-pound Braemar must be thrown from a static position while keeping one's feet still until after releasing the odd-shaped stone.

Fifty year old USA Women's Masters athlete Kristine Stuteville set four new World's records by throwing: the 23 pound Heavy weight for distance and 16 pound light weight for distance, the 16 pound hammer and 23 pound hammer on the rain-slick grounds of Bught Park.

*Another photograph from the Masters 55+ Heavyweight Championships on page 16*

## **Masters Competitor Classes World Champions and new World Records set**

### *Masters Lightweight*

A Bobby Brown – Canada – World Champion - Master's World Record: Neil McKenzie of Scotland Heavy Hammer and Light Hammer in Masters 40-49 Under 200 lb.

### *Masters Lightweight*

B Kevin Rogers and Jim Spalding USA - are Co-World Champions Masters 50+ Under 200 lbs.

Masters 40-44 Jason Young – USA - World Champion

Masters 40-49 Denise Houseman – USA - World Champion

Masters 45-49 Mark McDonald – Scotland - World Champion

Masters 50-54 Al Stagner – USA - World Champion

### *Masters 50-59 Women*

Kristine Stuteville – USA – World Champion - Kristine Stuteville wins both the Combined Hammers Trophy and Combined Distance Trophy with four new world records -

### *Masters' World Records:*

Kristine Stuteville Heavy Distance, Light Distance, Heavy Hammer and Light Hammer in Women's 50+ Class

Masters 55-59 Bill Leffler – USA – World Champion

Masters 60-64 Wayne Staggs – USA – World Champion

### *Masters 65-69*

Ray Oster – USA – World Champion - Ray Oster wins the Combined Stones Trophy with new world records for each stone. -

### *Masters' World Records:*

Ray Oster Braemar Stone and Open Stone for Age 65-69

### *Masters 70-74*

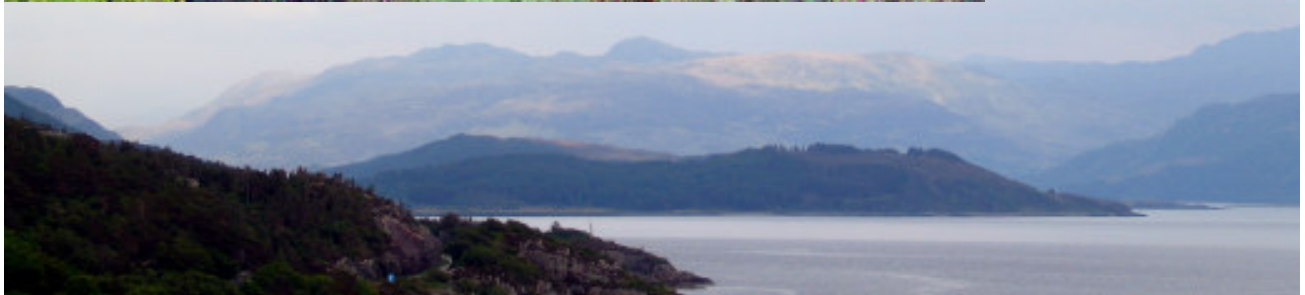
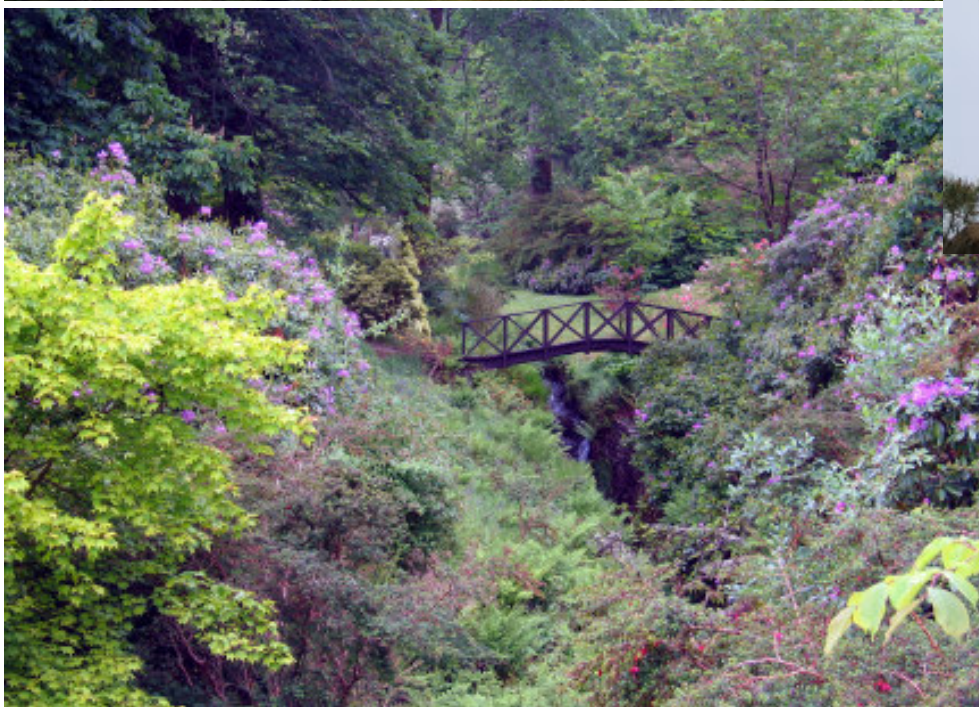
Bill Rogers – USA – **World Champion Bill Rogers and Kevin Rogers are the first father-son pair to win Masters World Championships-**





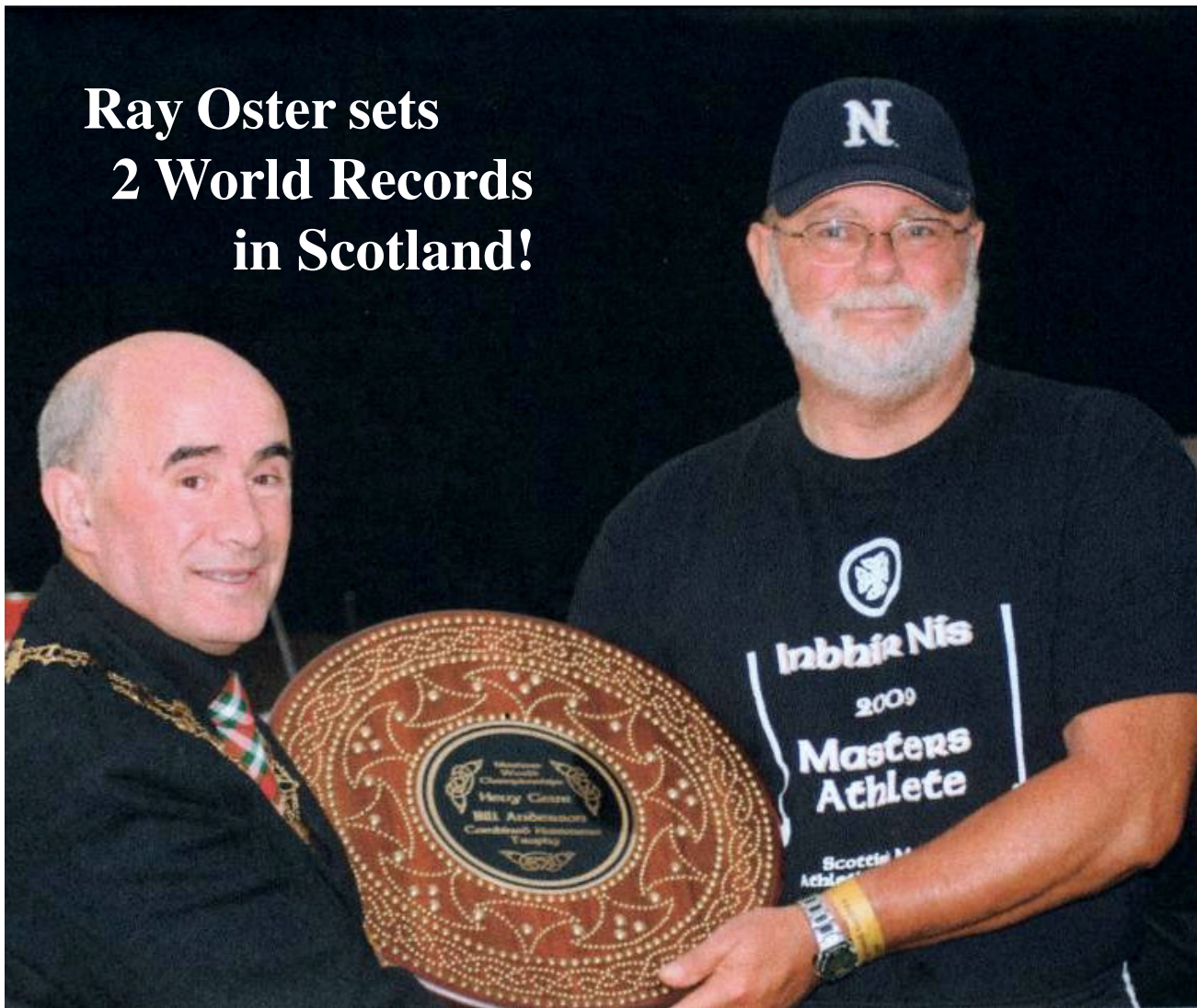


# *Summertime in Scotland*





## Ray Oster sets 2 World Records in Scotland!



*Ray Oster, right, from Nevada USA, receiving the incredible Combined Stones trophy after setting 2 world records at the World Championships - Scottish Highland Games Masters Heavy Athletic Events..*

**“Before it was over, USA athletes had set 8 new worldrecords, including a clean sweep in the combined class events by KristineStuteville (age 50+) and our own Ray Oster from Nevada who set World Records in the Open & Braemar categories, “ writes Ray Walker from California.**

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The Festival on Saturday from 9 AM - 5:30 PM and the Ceilidh from 5:30 PM til Midnight  
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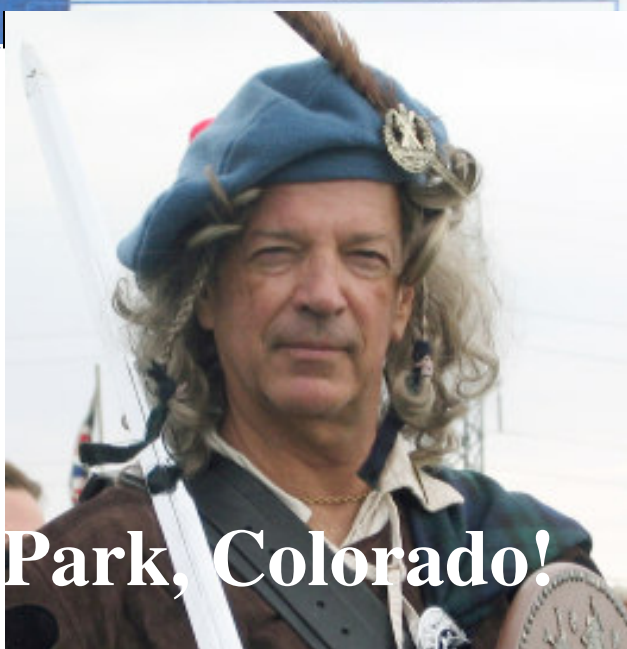
If you are a MacNeil or of any of the following "Sept" names, then you have found the site that you are looking for:

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## Elliot Clan Society USA plans AGM in Salado, Texas

The Elliot Clan Society USA plans their 2009 AGM this coming November 13-15 in Salado, Texas.

There are events planned to make it a great time for all. On Friday there is golf for those who wish to play at Mill Creek. That evening there is a get together at Johnny's Steaks and BBQ located at 301 Thomas Arnold Road in Salado. Call 254-947-5111 for complete details.

On Saturday, the group will meet at 2 PM for the AGM and Election of Officers during the Salado Scottish Games & Gathering of the Clans in the Central Texas Area Museum.

That evening, the group will have dinner at the Stagecoach Inn, 401 South Stagecoach Road, Salado. Call 254-947-5111 for complete information. The dinners are \$31 each and reservations are necessary. Please contact Patricia Tennyson Bell, 2288 Casa Grande Street, Pasadena, CA 91104 for complete information.

A block of rooms has been allocated at the Stagecoach Inn, which is in walking distance of the Games. Call 972-818-4049 and be sure and mention the Elliot Clan Society USA to be given one of the rooms which have been reserved.



The Elliot Clan Society mourns the passing of **Paula Elliott** of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Long time member of the Elliot Clan Society, wife of David Bruce Elliott, mother of Robert Bruce Elliott, past president of the Society and current Commissioner of Michigan and Indiana and mother of David M. Elliott, past Commissioner of Michigan.

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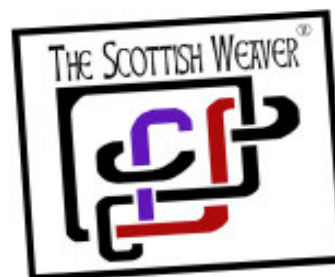
   
 

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## Cajun research? Here's help.

The 1990 U.S. Census of Population was the first census to include an ethnic group listing for "Cajun/Acadia." This has special meaning for Louisiana residents. Ten percent of Louisiana's population listed themselves as Cajun. This totals about 400,000, while approximately another 25,000 listed Cajun as their secondary ancestry. Vermilion Parish, located in central Acadiana, has the highest concentration of Cajun: 50 percent of its total population claim that ancestry.

Nationwide, according to the census, most people if Cajun/Acadian ancestry remain close to the ancestral home. Of the 700,000 people listing themselves as part of this ethnic group, 77 percent resided in Louisiana or Texas. A county-by-county listing of total population and Cajun population can be found at: <http://www.cajunculture.com/other/populati.htm>.



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# What month is it? In Gaelic? Here 'tis.

Here are the Gaelic months of the year, with translations and a phonetic version;

- ◆ January - Am Faoilleach (um Feul-yoch)
- ◆ February - An Gearran (un G-yarran)
- ◆ March - Am Mart (um Marsht)
- ◆ April - An Giblean (ung G-yarran)
- ◆ May - An Ceitean (ung K-yaetchan)
- ◆ June - An t-Og-mhios (un Tawg-viss)
- ◆ July - An t-Luchar (un Tchoocher)
- ◆ August - An Lunasdal (un Loonuss-dull)
- ◆ September - An t-Sultain (an Tool-teen)
- ◆ October - An Damhair (un Dah-vir)
- ◆ November - An t-Samhainn (un Taveen)
- ◆ December - An dubhlachd (un Doo-lochk)



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## Here is a checklist for caring for your irreplaceable family papers

- \* Keep your papers at a constant, moderate temperature and relative humidity.
- \* Store papers in darkness, expose them to light as little as possible.
- \* Fold and unfold letters and other documents as little as possible.
- \* Store loose papers unfolded in acid-free paper or polyester folders.
- \* Separate highly acidic paper like newspaper clippings from other materials.
- \* Photocopy contents from highly acidic documents onto acid-free paper.
- \* Don't laminate important papers.
- \* Leave deacidification to professionals.
- \* Don't use paper clips, rubber bands, tape, glue or post-it notes on important papers.





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# We are all related to famous and fancy folks! Yep. Every single one of us.

This article is from *Eastman's On-line Genealogy Newsletter* and is copyright 2002 by Richard W. Eastman. It is republished here with the permission of the author. *Although it is not a brand new column, this is something everyone working on their genealogy should read. I keep a copy with my genealogical papers.*

Mr. Eastman writes: Every time I think about finding kings and queens in the family tree, I create a mental image of the would-be social climbers of years ago who researched family trees in hopes of proving themselves to be "better" than the average person. How little they knew. It seems that the "average person" also has royal

ancestry. In fact, there is nothing more than a few bluebloods in the family tree.

Lisa Oberg and George Anderson both sent e-mails this week telling me about a fascinating article in the May 2002 issue of *The Atlantic Monthly*. That issue contains an article by Steve Olson, call "The Royal We: The mathematical study of genealogy indicates that everyone in the world descended from Nefertiti and Confucious, and everyone of European ancestry is descended from Muhammad and



Charlemagne."

In the article, Olsen describes his own search for his Irish ancestors. He goes on to detail what he learned from Mark Humphrys, a computer scientist at Dublin City University, as well as from some recent research done by Joseph Chang, a statistician at Yale University. In short, everyone of European descent had royal ancestry.

Chang's mathematical model makes the case for the number of ancestors that each of us has: "The mathematics of our ancestry is exceedingly complex, because the numbers of our ancestors increases exponentially, not linearly. These numbers are manageable in the first few generations - two parents, four grandparents, eight great grandparents, sixteen great-great-grandparents - but they quickly spiral out of control. Go back forty generations, or about a thousand years, and each of us theoretically has more than a trillion direct ancestors - a figure that far exceeds the total number of human beings who have ever lived."

The article goes on at some length to explain the realities of migration patterns and intermarriage within small communities. Olsen writes, "The number of ancestors common to all Europeans today increases, until, about a thousand years ago, a peculiar situation prevailed: 20 percent of the adult Europeans alive in

*Continued on page 26*

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**Dick Eastman**, *continued from page 25*

1000 would turn out to be the ancestors of no one living today (that is, they had no children or all their descendants eventually died childless); each of the remaining 80 percent would turn out to be a direct ancestor of every European living today.”

Another preconceived idea that needs to be shattered is that royalty only married royalty, and therefore, commoners would not likely have royal blood in their veins. Humphrys says, “Here we have a sir, so this woman is the daughter of a knight. Maybe this woman will marry nobility, so eventually someone here is going to marry someone who’s just wealthy. The one of their children could marry someone who doesn’t have that much money. In ten generations you can easily get from princess to peasant.”

## Where did that saying come from anyway? ?



The Earl of Cawdor refused to ride the train considering it an unnecessary risk. I’m pretty sure that was before the engineer named Botch designed a trestle that im-

mediately collapsed under the weight of a train - hence the term” botched job.”

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# Flowers of the Forest



A c t r e s s  
**Mollie Sugden**, best known for playing Mrs. Slocombe in the long-running BBC sitcom *Are you Being Served?* died recently at the age of 86 after a long illness.

Born in Keighley, West Yorkshire, in 1922, Sugden attend the local grammar school before training at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. She went on to serve a long apprenticeship in repertory theatre before television gave her a taste of fame with the comedy series *Hugh and I* in 1962 and *Coronation Street* as the gossiping Nellie Harvey.

Then, in 1972, came *Are You Being Served?* and the role for which she became best

known; the blue-rinsed Betty Slocombe, with her affectation of middle-class gentility and her outrageous use of the double-entendre.

Sugden found new fame in the United States when reruns of *Are You Being Served?* transformed both Sugden & co-star, John Inman, into cult figures in the early 1990s.

---

David Croft, one of the writers of *Are You Being Served?* remembered Mollie Sugden as a “marvelous character” who would never turn down chances to make people laugh. “She would never refuse any sort of comedy situation. No matter how undignified it was, she would always go along with it.”

Actor Frank Thornton, who played Captain Peacock in the sitcom, said she was part of a very happy team. “We all enjoyed each other’s company, which, if you’re doing comedy, is rather necessary,” he said. “You can’t play comedy with people you dislike. Mollie, of course, was an excellent comedian.”

Sugden, who lived in Surrey, was married to fellow actor, William Moore, best known for his role as Ronnie Corbett’s father in the sitcom, *Sorry!*



Please let us know if you suffer the loss of a friend, loved one or clansman. Flowers of the Forest listings are free, of course. If you would like a photo, send that jpeg format please.

Just send obituary and photo (if you wish) to [bethscribble@aol.com](mailto:bethscribble@aol.com)



# Research Using School & Educational Records

**Bryan L. Mulcahy, Reference Librarian**

**Fort Myers-Lee County, FL Library**

The educational backgrounds of our ancestors often provide valuable clues for genealogical research.

Schools of all varieties play a pivotal role in the socialization process of individuals. This is especially true at the elementary, middle (junior high), and senior high school levels.

In previous generations, life long friendships and relationships often grew out of these early years. Class rosters, school photographs, and yearbooks can provide many interesting personal insights. Items of this nature are generated by schools at all academic levels, including trade and vocational schools.

Records created by and about educational institutions often provide significant insights into the world our ancestors lived in, and reveal how these factors would later define their personalities and society in general.

Some of the most common sources where references to individuals may be found are listed below:

- School histories
- Class lists
- Report cards
- Student profiles
- Discipline reports
- Awards for academic or athletic achievement

ment

■ Photographs

■ Diplomas

Educational records are often found in the archives of original school districts or the institutions that created them. Items such as report cards, awards for achievement, photographs, and diplomas may be in the possession of an ancestor's child or distant relative.

Many of these items may have survived in some old file cabinet or desk drawer at home. Keep this in mind when planning a visit to the home of a relative or family member whom you

suspect may have this type of information and not realize the significance of the material.

Records for schools that have closed over the decades have survived in a variety of locations such as: Local libraries Local genealogical societies Local historical societies County administrative offices of the current school boards Museums State, local, private, and federal archives BLM 8/10/2009

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





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Beth's visit to Flagstaff, Arizona was made possible by Ludlow and Nancy and AirTran Airlines.