

Vol. XIV No. 4 *Beth's Newfangled Family Tree* September 2020 Section B

Bespoke designer unveils new tartan in £2.5m fundraising effort to save Scotland's heritage

*Save Our Scotland tartan aims to raise funds for crisis-hit
National Trust for Scotland*

David McLean

A new tartan has been created as part of a £2.5 million fundraising effort to help save one of Scotland's leading heritage bodies which has been hit hard by the Covid-19 crisis.

Bespoke Highland tartan designer and creator, Clare Campbell, who runs weaving firm Prickly Thistle, has teamed up with the National Trust for Scotland to create a bespoke tartan in support of the conservation charity's emergency fundraising appeal.

The *Save Our Scotland tartan*, which has today been officially listed by the Scottish Register of Tartans comes in two

Continued on page 7



Gold Star Mothers Day

Gold Star Mothers Day commemorates those who have lost a child serving the U.S. Armed Forces. Gold Star Mothers Day was founded by Grace Darling Seibold on June 4th, 1928. She lost her son in WW1. This observance is recognized on the last Sunday of every September. **This year it is September 27.**

Clan *Blair* Society

**Memberships are cordially invited
for Blair descendants and other
interested parties.**



www.clanblair.org

President, Clan Blair Society,
Jim Blair
7200 S. Prince Street
Littleton, CO 80120
<president@clanblair.org>

Membership Chairman,
Charles Diman

3413 Synnybrook Drive, Charlotte, NC 28210-4715 ClanMembership@clanblair.org



Blair House, the ancestral home of the Blair family in the Ayrshire region, has history to circa 1100.

Clan Blair



Hillfort revealed as one of the largest Pictish settlements in Scotland

With thanks to *Ancient Origins*, Ashley Cowie

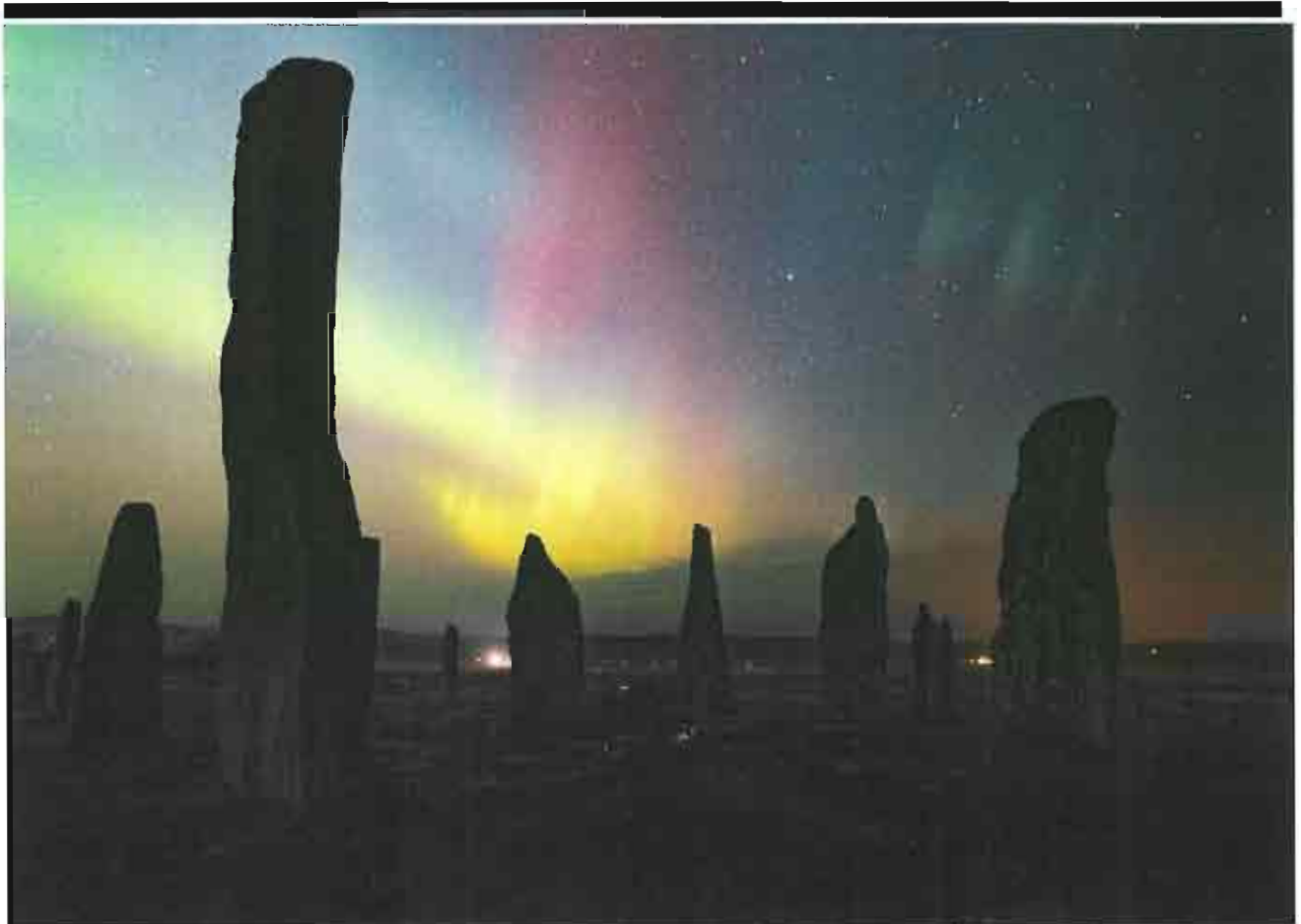
The Tap o' Noth is a whale-backed hill about 20 miles west of Inverurie in Aberdeenshire, close to the village of Rhynie in Scotland, and on its summit is the second highest hillfort in Scotland, by the same name. Enclosed by a well-preserved vitrified wall measuring approximately 100 x 30 meters (328 x 98 ft) archaeologists from the University of Aberdeen have announced that this spectacular hillfort, thought to be abandoned in the Iron Age, was actually also a Pictish settlement and has been revealed as one of "the largest ancient settlements ever discovered in Scotland."

Having excavated evidence suggesting more

than 4,000 people may have lived in over 800 huts, radiocarbon dating suggests the fort was constructed in the fifth to sixth centuries AD. The settlement on the hill may date back as far as the third century AD. This means the fort was built by the Picts, the confederation of Celtic-speaking peoples who lived in what is today eastern and northern Scotland during the Late British Iron Age and Early Medieval periods.

And while Pictish history is generally only inferred from early medieval texts and elaborately carved Pictish stones. At the height of this fort, the

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Callinish. Digital Design. This was shared by Mary MacDonald



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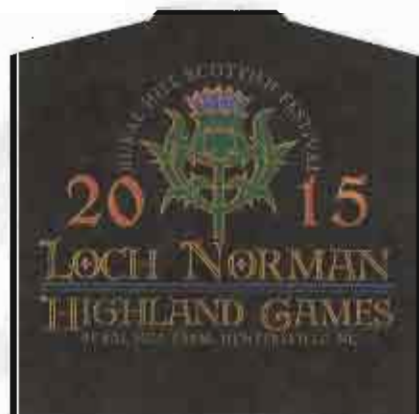
Tom Freeman is a heraldic artist & graphic designer living in Northeast Georgia. He has been working in the Scottish community both in the US and internationally since 1999. He can be reached using the information shown below.



Thomas R. Freeman, Jr., FSA Scot

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trf@cockspurherald.com



FICTION VERSUS FACT - CLAN SEPTS

Dave Chagnon, FSA Scot. Clan Chief's High Commissioner for North America
Clan Davidson Society of North America

Here's another facet of modern Scottish Culture that has been run around the May Pole too many times to count!

In all honesty, the whole issue of family names, what we call surnames or "last names" today, is a pretty recent invention, all things being considered. And the *emphasis* on regularity in the spelling of these surnames is *really* recent, just in the last 5 or 6 decades in some cases (at least in some parts of the United States, anyway). I once had a friend whose surname was spelled *McEwen*. His Dad had wandered a hundred miles west from Memphis in the 1920s to settle in a small town just north of Little Rock, Arkansas. His first cousin, still living near Memphis, spelled his surname *McEuen*. This was just 70 years ago and only over a distance of about a hundred miles. How do you think it might have been several hundred years in the past, when many of the common folk (and many of the Gentry, too) were illiterate? Is it any wonder we have so many variations on how our ancestors spelled their names?

And, let's not forget those poor overworked and underpaid clerks at our respective nations' ports of debarkation. They were not so literate, either, and how they spelled the names of those who often spoke in a heavy accent showed great creativity. This is probably true with census takers as well.

And so on it goes, all sorts of claims as to why the notion of "septs" has a solid basis in history when common sense argues just the other way. But it's not just the authors of this book who think the issue of septs is fraught with peril. Herewith follows the opinions of some very well respected

gentlemen who have similar views on the subject.

The Romantic Myth of Scottish Clan Septs

(Note: The following material represents the views on this topic as expressed by three individuals who are eminently qualified to be considered experts in their related fields. Ed)

1. *John A. Duncan of Sketraw, FSA Scot* - *Clan Duncan Society* - The concept of 'sept' names is itself one of some contention with many misconceptions and a generally exaggerated romanticisation brought about, in the main, by Victorian rediscovery. This rediscovery was largely due to George IV's visit to Edinburgh in 1822, organised by Sir Walter Scott, and spurred on by him in his 'Waverly Novels'. The Victorians loved this self created and romanticised view of Scotland's past and name septs were compiled



wherein anyone could discover what Highland Clan they were allegedly associated with. This of course then gave rise to the general myth surrounding which tartan a sept member was "entitled" to wear, all with no official authority.

The word 'sept' is, in fact, an Irish term meaning "division" and although some smaller groups with different surnames would indeed have affiliated with larger Clans (or more powerful Clans) for protection, this does not make them a 'sept' of that clan or indeed mean they have any blood ties to that Clan.

2. *Sir Thomas Innes of Learney, GCMG, KCVO, QC* (1893-1971) *Lord Lyon King of Arms*, 1945-1969,

Continued on page 13

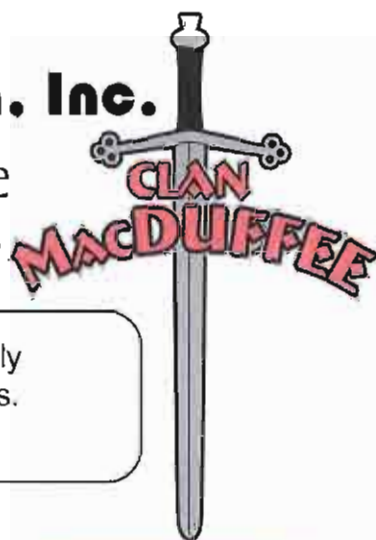
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Save Our Heritage Tartan. *continued from page 1*

in two limited edition colour palettes that represent the charity's past and future.

The blue, green, brown and grey tones woven into the Hands of the Past tartan have been chosen to reflect the land and buildings that the National Trust for Scotland protects, including the Culloden battle site near Inverness and East Lothian's historic Preston Mill.

The Hands of the Future tartan has red tones to represent the love for the treasured places and spaces that the National Trust for Scotland cares for and the passion shown by supporters for the Save Our Scotland campaign.

Save Our Scotland was launched by the Trust last month after it announced a loss of essential income of £28 million caused by Covid-19 lockdown measures. The emergency appeal aims to raise at least £2.5 million to help the Trust continue its work to protect Scotland's built and natural heritage.

Only 2,020 metres of bespoke tartan will be woven and all profits will go to the Save Our Scotland appeal. The design can only be bought from Prickly Thistle's collection page at <https://pricklythistle.shop/collections/nts-save-our-scotland-appeal>.

Encouraging creativity and zero waste, Prickly Thistle has created a set of DIY craft ideas. Buyers



The blue, green, brown and grey tones woven into *The Hands of the Past Tartan* embody the land and buildings that the National Trust for Scotland protects.

The Hands of the Future Tartan has red tones to represent the love for the treasured places and spaces in our care, and the passion shown by supporters for the Save Our Scotland campaign.



will receive step-by-step instructions to make cushion covers, tote bags, aprons and even a kilt from the fabric.

Clare Campbell, founder and co-owner of Prickly Thistle, said: "As soon as I saw the Save Our Scotland appeal, I knew I wanted to help somehow. As the Trust are not only protectors of sites such as the Culloden Battlefield, a place of incredible significance to the tartan story for Scotland, there was an important story that we could literally help weave into the Trust's narrative for the future.

"This project and its purpose means so much to us – above all, I hope it helps people take a moment to think about the fabric of everything and how they can influence positive change.

"We're so fortunate to be part of a country that has one of the richest histories in the world and like the Trust, we're protectors and promoters of the past. We feel we have a responsibility to support the Save Our Scotland campaign, because when something is gone, often it is irreplaceable, and it is never quite the same again. With a project of this nature, all supporters will literally have heritage in their hands."

Jenny Howard-Coombes, Corporate Partnerships Manager for the National Trust for Scotland, added: "When Clare approached us with her tar-

Continued on page 9



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Save Our Heritage Tartan.

continued from page 1



tan designs, we really felt her passion for the work that we do in caring for and protecting Scotland's heritage.

"There was a very natural synergy between our organisations and we've really enjoyed working with Clare and Prickly Thistle to create a beautiful piece of fabric that will represent this campaign as well as the importance of Scotland's heritage for years to come.

"We're looking forward to seeing what buyers of the Save Our Scotland tartan craft with their pieces of cloth and we hope to see some really wonderful creations in the near future."

For more information about the Save Our Scotland appeal, visit www.nts.org.uk/donate.

The designs can only be bought from Prickly Thistle's collection page at <https://pricklythistle.shop/collections/nts-save-our-scotland-appeal>.



The "Craw Stane", a Pictish symbol stone depicting a salmon and an unknown animal, with Tap o' Noth in background.

Tap O'Noth, continued from page 3

archaeologists say it "rivalled the largest known post-Roman settlements in Europe."

An Iconic and Gargantuan Defensive Ancient Structure

Consisting of two main components; a massive rectangular fort and surrounding wall, the former is located at the summit of the hill and is today a mound of rubble about 15 meters (50 ft) thick. And while the interior of the fort was quarried the rubble still stands to three meters high in patches.

According to Atlas of Hillforts of Britain and Ireland, from the summit of Tap O' Noth the observer can see all the way to the Moray Firth to the north and to the North Sea in the east, which means this was a strategically significant prehistoric location.

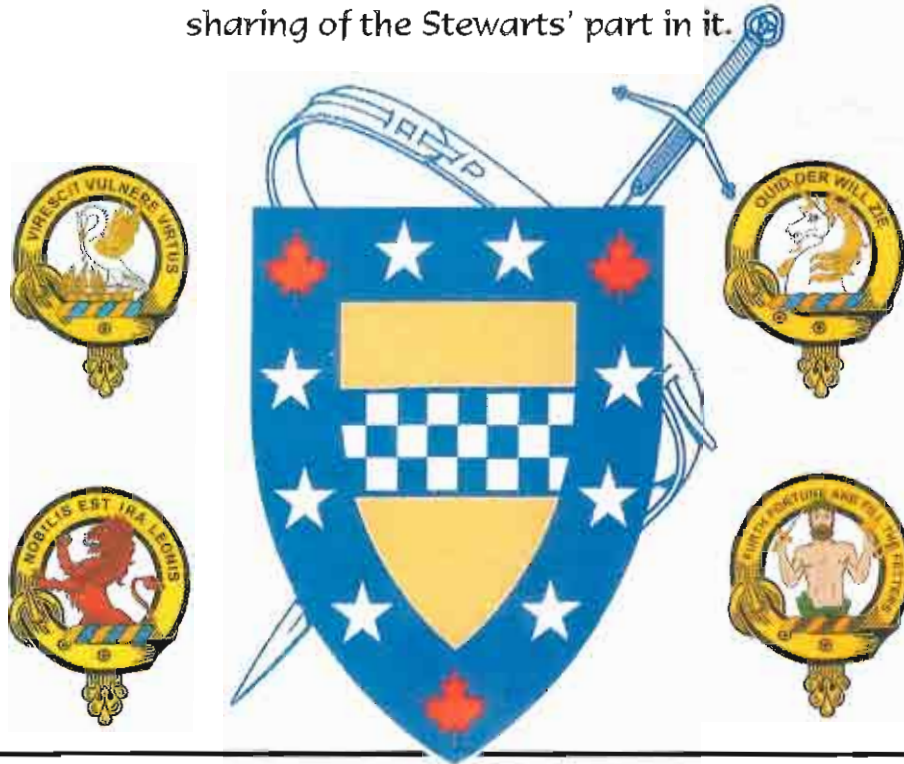
But what is called an "iconic hillfort" remains substantially unexcavated. In 1891 the first archaeological test trench was opened across the wall of the fort to establish its width, but the site remained greatly untouched until the 1980s and the site was excavated in 2011 and laser scanned by archaeologists at the University of Aberdeen in 2015.

Since 2011 archaeologists from the university have conducted extensive fieldwork in the surrounding area and Prof Gordon Noble, who leads the research, said samples had only been taken from the site to help place the most recent discoveries into a broader geographical context. Dr. Noble described the unexpected new results as the "most

Continued on page 17

Clan Stewart Society in America, Inc.

501(c)(3) Not For Profit Organization dedicated to the preservation of Scottish Heritage and History and the sharing of the Stewarts' part in it.



The Stewart dynasty descended from King Robert I's daughter and her husband, Walter the Steward. Despite early unrest and weak government caused by several Stewart kings succeeding as minors, the dynasty flourished for over three centuries.

During this time, Scotland moved forward to become a modern and prosperous nation. Stewart monarchs such as King James IV and VI were Renaissance patrons of artistic, scientific, commercial, religious and political endeavour, sponsoring figures including the poet, Robert Henryson, and humanist, George Buchanan.

Also of significance was the arrival in the mid-sixteenth century of the Reformation movement, bringing about the replacement of Catholic Mary Queen of Scots by her son King James VI.

It was through the Stewart dynasty that the two thrones of England and Scotland - and later the governments - came to be united.

The 'Marriage of the Thistle and the Rose' took place at Stirling Castle in 1503 between King James IV and Princess Margaret Tudor, daughter of King Henry VII of England.

This union of the Scottish and English Royal families eventually led in 1603 to the succession of a Stewart (now with a change of spelling) to the throne of England.

CSSA is represented at approximately 40 Scottish/Celtic events around the country each year. We are always looking for folks with our passion to volunteer to start more.

We also have a presence on the Internet with a website, <clansstewart.org> (official) and a Facebook page listed as *Clan Stewart Society in America* (unofficial).

Though we have maintained our low annual \$25 membership, we are still able to sponsor trophies for dance, drums and pipes and establish scholarships for institutions providing cultural Scottish curriculums and we also sponsor the competition of a record-holding female athlete.

For CSSA membership information: <clansstewart.org> (You may pay your dues at that site, too.)



Patricia Stewart Lathrem Bain died peacefully on Friday, April 3, 2020, after a long illness. She was a native Lexingtonian and the daughter of Nancye Williams Lathrem and Harold M. Lathrem. Pat is survived by her husband Roger M., a sister Laura Mason Wright (Dan), a brother Harold D. (Toby), step-daughter Laura Bain Pramuk (Edward), step-son Jonathan S. Bain, grandson, Aaron Pramuk and granddaughter Laura Faith Pramuk.

She was loved by sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews, cousins and many special friends.

Pat graduated from Lafayette High School as Valedictorian of her graduating class of 1972. She was a member of the marching band and active in music and scholastic activities.

Pat was awarded a scholarship to Transylvania University and graduated with an Arts Degree in 1976, receiving an academic achievement award from the Department of Fine Arts.

She began her Art career working in Medical illustration at the University of Kentucky School of Medicine, later as a commercial artist, and then as a freelance artist.

In 1984, Pat returned to "Transy" to work as an Admissions Counselor. She later was appointed as the Director of Admissions and served as a member of the President's Board until 1993.

Pat was contacted and asked to come to work as a Para Educator by the Principle of the New Veterans Park Elementary School when it first opened. She was a proud member of the V.P.E. Staff until she retired in 2015 because of an injury.

She missed her many dear friends and students; she loved children and teaching.

Pat was active in Lexington community activities and organizations. She received an award as an Outstanding Young Kentuckian by the Lexington Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees) in 1971. She was a member of the Scottish Society of Louisville, Kentucky.

She served as a Judge to the Miss American Coed Pageant and received an award in 1985 in recognition of her service.

Being a cancer survivor, she organized and conducted an annual American Cancer Society Fund Drive at V.P.E. School.

Pat served as a Board Member of the Oaks Condominium Community.

She also owned and operated two home-based businesses.

Pat, along with her family, grew up as a member of Central Christian Church where she sang in the choir with her mother and taught Sunday school. She later became a member of the Faith Fellowship Church and enjoyed singing in the choir.

Pat will be remembered as an intelligent, lovely, sweet lady with an infectious smile and a great sense of humor. She was energetic and always doing for others, giving of her energy and time.

We wish to thank and express our gratitude to Dr. D. Doodenaugh, P.A. Trisha Garrett, and all of the caring wonderful nurses and aides who cared for Pat during the past few years at Northpoint SNF Lexington.

A private burial for family members is scheduled at Blue Grass Memorial Gardens. Any contributions may be made in Pat's memory to the American Cancer Society.



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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after being Carrick Pursuivant and Albany Herald [Note: Both offices work under the overall authority of the Lyon Court. Ed] in the 1930s makes mention in the book *Clan Septs and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands*, 1952 co-authored by Frank Adam that: "septs must be regarded as a rather wonderful effort of imagination" and "The very word 'sept' is delusive and no serious attention can now be attached to Skene's theories about 'septs'. He also states that some Clan historians could be being found guilty of "sept-snatching".

3. *Sir Crispin Agnew of Lochnaw, Baronet, QC4, Rothesay Herald of Arms* [Note: Another office that works under the overall authority of the Lyon Court. Ed] and *Chief of Clan Agnew*, also makes mention of Clan 'septs' in his article 'Clans, Families & Septs':

"It should also be said that the various Sept lists, which are published in the various Clans and Tartan books, have no official authority. They

merely represent some person's, (usually in the Victorian eras) views of which name groups were in a particular clan's territory. Thus, we find members of a clan described, as being persons owing allegiance to their chief "be pretence of blud or place of thare duelling". In addition to blood members of the clan, certain families have a tradition (even if the tradition can with the aid of modern records are shown to be wrong) descent from a particular clan chief. They are, of course, still recognised as being members of the clan.

Historically, the concept of "clan territory" also gives rise to difficulty, particularly as certain names or

Septs claim allegiance to a particular chief, because they come from his territory. The extent of the territory of any particular chief varied from time to time depending on the waxing and waning of his power. Thus a particular name living on the bound-

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2020, The Year of the Pandemic - We will survive!

~~Look How Many People It Took To Make You!~~

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1).....1 YOU | 12).....2,048 gggggggggg grandparents |
| 2).....2 parents | 13).....4,096 gggggggggg grandparents |
| 3).....4 grandparents | 14).....8,192 gggggggggg grandparents |
| 4).....8 great grandparents | 15).....16,384 gggggggggg grandparents |
| 5).....16 gg grandparents | 16).....32,768 gggggggggg grandparents |
| 6).....32 ggg grandparents | 17).....65,536 gggggggggg grandparents |
| 7).....64 gggg grandparents | 18).....131,072 gggggggggg grandparents |
| 8).....128 ggggg grandparents | 19).....262,144 gggggggggg grandparents |
| 9).....256 gggggg grandparents | 20).....524,288 gggggggggg grandparents |
| 10).....512 ggggggg grandparents | 21).....1,048,576 gggggggggg grandparents |
| 11).....1,024 gggggggg grandparents | 22).....2,097,152 gggggggggg grandparents |

With thanks to the American Clan Lockhart publication, *The Talisman*.

Clan Home Society, International

The Clan Home Society,
International cordially invites
membership from all HOME
and HUME and allied families.

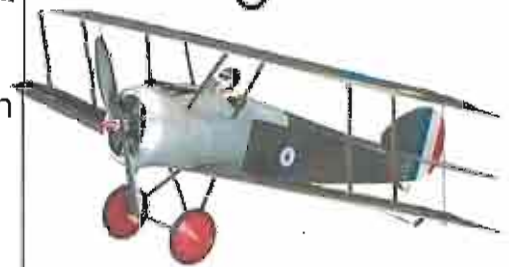


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Clan Septs, *continued from page 13*

aries of a clan's territory would find that while the chiefs power was on the way up they would owe him allegiance but, if his power declined retrospectively at some arbitrary date, they would owe him no allegiance. Often, the names are Scotland-wide and so it is difficult to say that any particular name belongs to a particular clan. Often, surnames are shown as potentially being members of a number of clans and this is because a number of that name has been found in each different clan's territory.

Generally speaking, if a person has a particular sept name which can be attributed to a number of clans, either they should determine from what part of Scotland their family originally came and owe allegiance to the clan of that area or, alternatively, if they do not know where they came from, they should perhaps owe allegiance to the clan to which their family had traditionally owed allegiance. Alternatively, they may offer their allegiance to any of the particular named clans in the hope that the

cept them as his clan. has already with the from time to t i c l a r



teritories, it can be said that at one particular era some names were members of or, owed allegiance to, a particular chief while a century later their allegiance may well have been owed elsewhere.

1. (*Continuing*) John A. Duncan - "In summary, therefore, the right to belong to a clan or family, which are the same thing, is a matter for the determination of the chief who is entitled to accept or reject persons who offer him their allegiance.

Because one or two families of a particular name group gave allegiance to a particular clan, as this suited their needs at that time, this does not mean that all of that name did so and, it would be presumptuous to think that this would be the case and, even more so, to regard them as a "sept."

We must view some of these 19th century

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Ruadh, Aodh Uí Domhaill
(1572 - 10 Sept. 1602)

Remains of Irish rebel hero 'Red' Hugh O'Donnell likely found in Spain

Ian Harvey

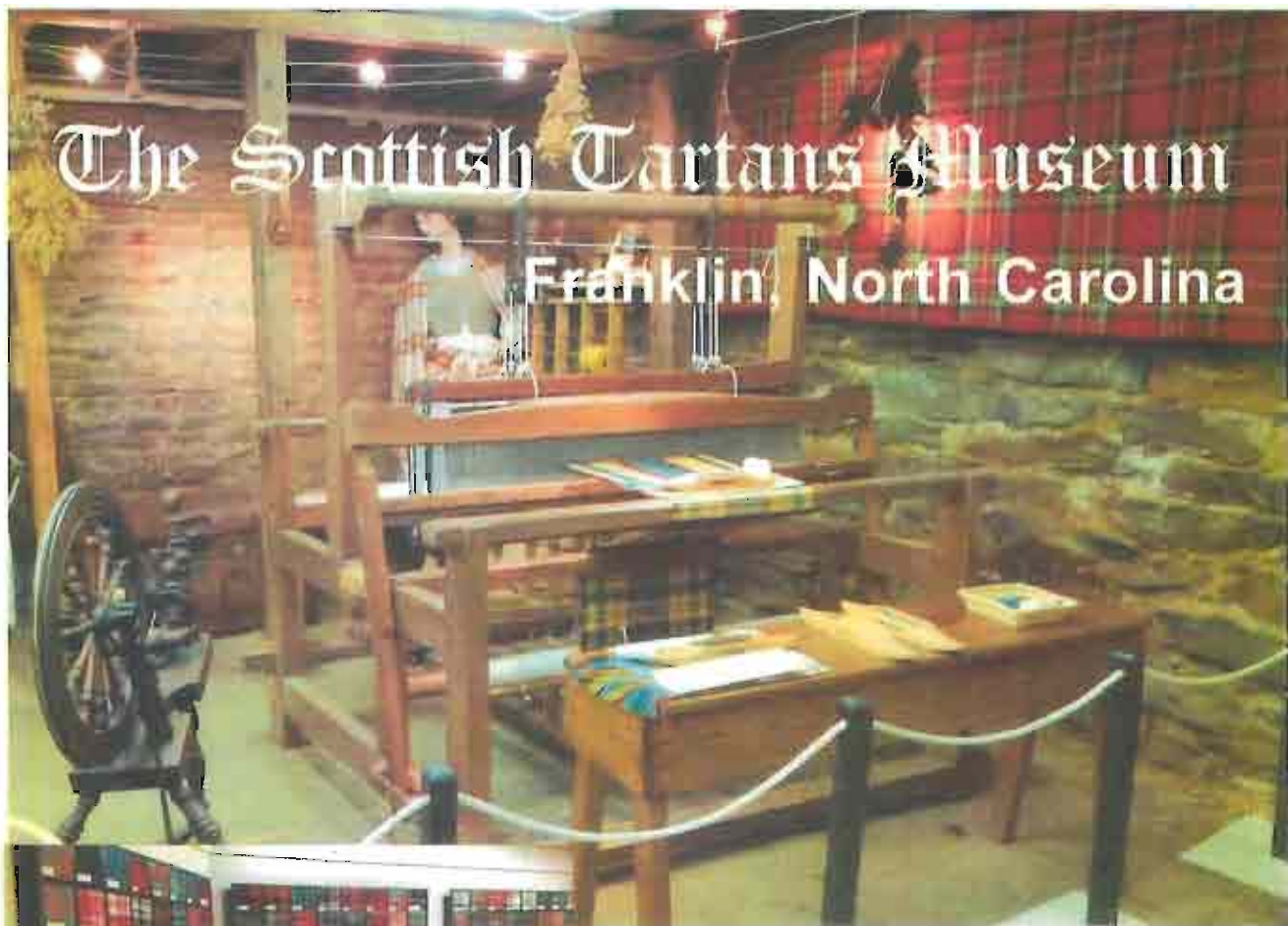
In 1602 when Irish chieftain Red Hugh Roe O'Donnell succumbed to an intestinal infection while traveling to Valladolid, Spain, he was given a royal funeral by Phillip III, the King of Spain. His body was carried to his final resting place, La Capilla de las Maravillas—the Chapel of Marvels—on a horse-drawn hearse with Spanish officials carrying torches and candles around him, according to *The Irish Times*.

Because of the movement toward secularization in Spain in the 1800s, the chapel was lost.

Recent archaeology has revealed not only walls of the chapel but two wooden coffins, human bones, and a skull which may very well lead to confirmation that the burial place of Red Hugh Roe O'Donnell has been found.

The search for O'Donnell's grave began when Brendan Rohan of County Donegal visited Valladolid in northwest Spain looking for information that could lead him to the Irish hero's grave.

Continued on page 27



The Scottish Tartans Museum & Heritage Center is located in downtown Franklin, North Carolina.

This tartans museum is a non profit organization operated by a Board of Directors and the only tartan museum in the United States.

Our museum is located downstairs which shows the evolution of the kilt and the history of tartan.

Our gift shop, which supports the operation of our museum, is located upstairs and our volunteers are trained to look up surnames and provide customers with a bit of history and what tartan their family should wear.

We offer our gift shop online and brick and mortar. Here you can order custom made kilts, ladies kilted skirts, sashes, scarves, neckties, fabric by the swatch or by the yard, kilt hose and all quality accessories to accent your highland wear.

Admission is \$2.00 per adult and \$1.00 for Children 6-12.

We are open Monday through Saturday 10-5 pm (Winter hours are 11 AM until 4 PM)) It is always a good idea to call first if you are planning a trip to our quaint wee mountain town because we might have snow and ice.

Visit our website and learn some history as well

www.scottishtartans.org



LOOKING FOR LOST BELLS!

Glenda Elliot Cain, <glenda@appaspot.com>, is requesting help to find more information about her fourth great grandfather. **JOHN BELL** lived near Edinburgh, and went to Belfast before coming to America with his brothers, **GEORGE** and **WILLIAM**. He married **ELIZABETH BETSEY PALMER** (1785-1862) in Bergen, New Jersey. She would love to find more info on fourth great grandfather, **JOHN**, his parents, and siblings.

JOHN BELL, great-great-great-great grandfather, DNA Match (1765 - 1849). Third great-grandfather **JESSE E BELL** DNA match (1823 - 1905) and is the son of **JOHN BELL** 4ggf DNA Match. Second great grandfather, **FRANK LAUGHLIN BELL** DNA Match (1862 - 1960) who was the son of **JESSE E BELL** DNA match. Grandfa-



ther, **CARLTON MEREDITH BELL** DNA Match (1898 - 1976), who was the son of **FRANK LAUGHLIN BELL** DNA Match.

My mother was **BERTHA AGNES BELL** DNA match (1925 - 1965) Daughter of **CARLTON MEREDITH BELL** DNA Match. I am **GLENDA MAE** (born **DOROTHY MARIE ELLIOTT**) **ELLIOTT** DNA only DAR981209. Please email **Glenda Elliott Cain** if you have any information. Thank you.

Remember, if you have a query about some of your lost ancestors, just send it to <bethscribble@aol.com> and we will put it in the next *BNFT* issue. No charge, no strings.

Tap O'Noth, continued from page 9

surprising" of his career and he said he was "absolutely stunned" when he read the "truly mind-blowing" results.

Why Dr. Noble is so excited is because the realization that Tap o' Noth fort is both Pictish and housed around 4000 people "shakes the narrative of this whole time period" demonstrating just how little archaeologists know about how people lived at this settlement around the time the Pictish tribes consolidated.

However, while archaeologists are learning

more about the size of Tap o' Noth fort, and now know it housed more than 4000 people, what remains a tightly-locked mystery is why or how the walls of the fort became fused together, or vitrified.

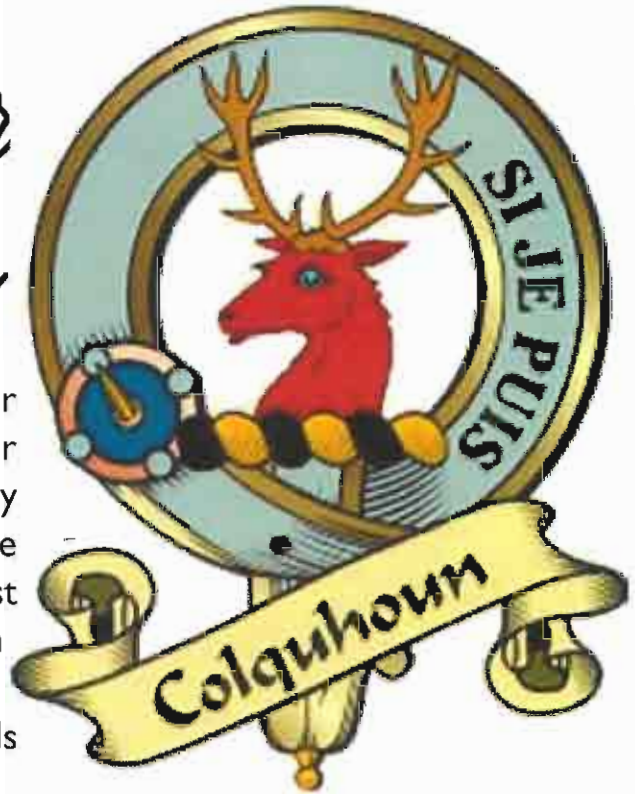
No Atomic Blast. Fire Melted the Stones of Iron Age Forts Say Investigators

The fort's ramparts were originally constructed with stones interlaced with a timber frame but a large amount of vitrification is present, indi-

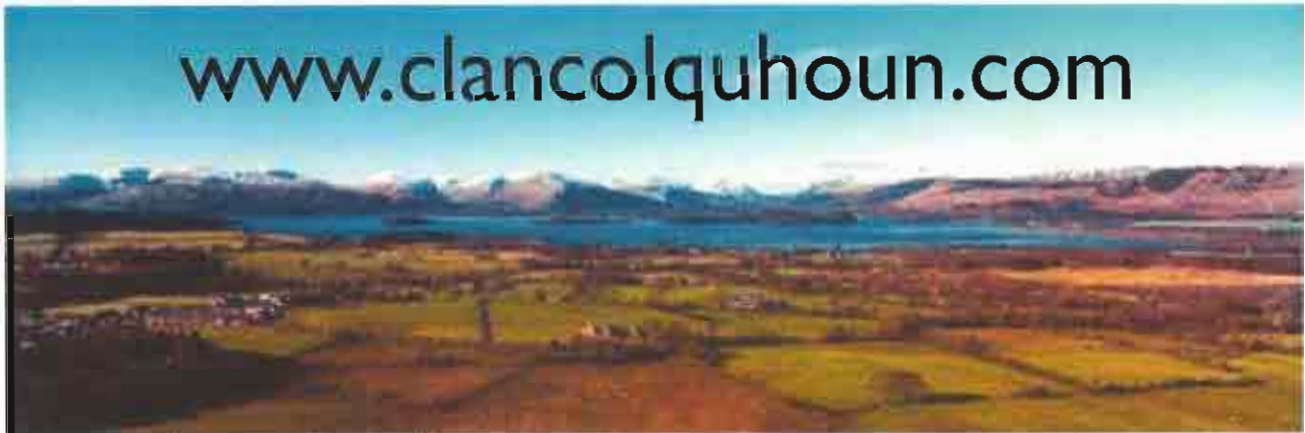
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Become a member of Clan Colquhoun

Our goal is to promote, protect, and preserve our clan's history and heritage. Regardless of how our members spell their name, or from which sept they come, we are all tied to the Village of Luss on the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond – some of the most beautiful land in the world. I encourage you to join us as we continue to build an organization that brings our history into the present and safeguards our legacy for future generations.



www.clancolquhoun.com



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Lord Malcolm & Lady Colquhoun

You are most cordially invited to join us!

Allied Families and Septs are:

**Colquhoun, Calhoun, Cowan,
MacClintock & MacManus**

Contact us at

<clancolquhoun.com>

Join us at clancolquhoun.com



25 Sep - 4 Oct 2020 Wigtown Book Festival is ONLINE THIS YEAR!

One of southern Scotland's biggest arts events, that is usually worth millions of pounds to the local economy, will take place online this year.

Organisers of the Wigtown Book Festival say the move to a digital gathering could help attract new audiences.

Maintaining its pre-announced dates, from 25 September to 4 October, the 2020 festival will have two main themes: *Resilience and Connection*.

Continued on page 21

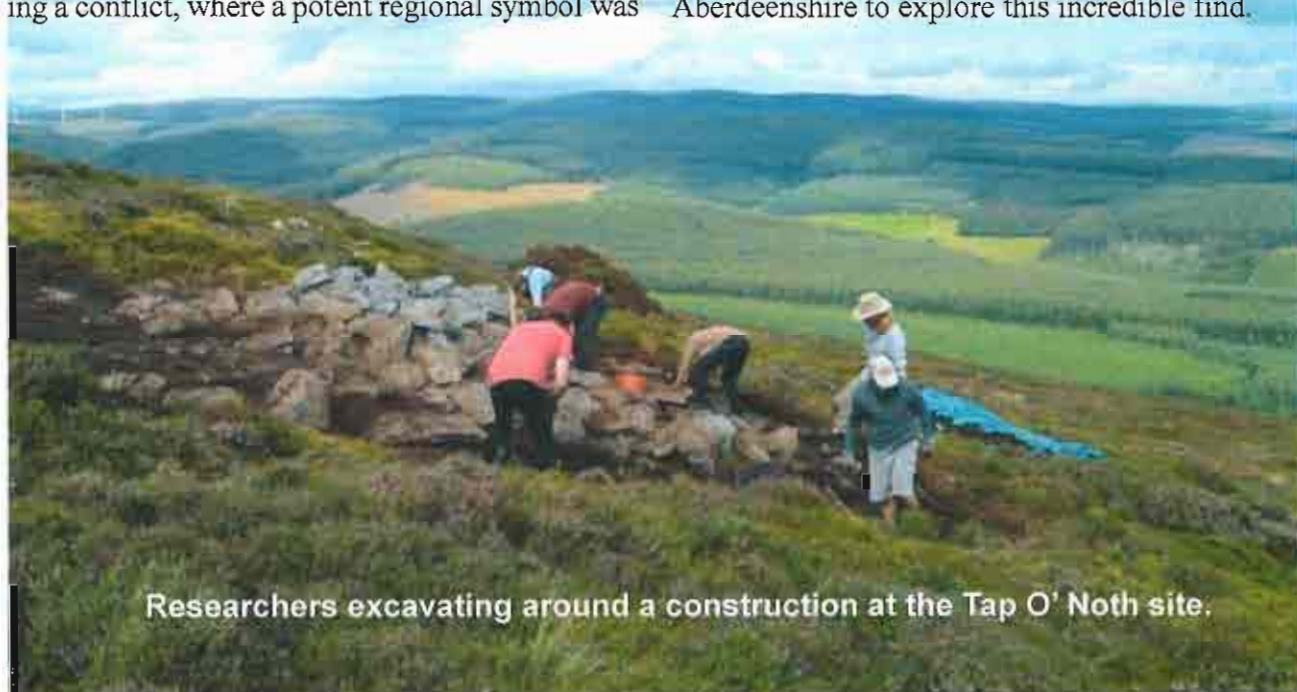
Tap O'Noth, continued from page 17

cating that the walls had been set alight and the resulting intense heat had caused the stones to fuse together.

In a 2017 Canmore entry, Gordon Noble, Cathy MacIver and James O'Driscoll of the University of Aberdeen said a large number of vitrified forts exist in Scotland but archaeologists "don't yet know why they were fired." Many have suggested vitrification was a construction technique, but fusing stones with heat "did not uniformly make the walls stronger" according to the university scientists who suggest the vitrification occurred during a conflict, where a potent regional symbol was

deliberately damaged. But whatever the reason for burning the fort, Gordon Noble says "it must have been an awe-inspiring sight."

What the researchers must now do is figure out how the fort and its inhabitants interacted with the surrounding landscape and neighbors in the greater Pictish community, and in a BBC news article about the discovery, Aberdeenshire Council leader Jim Gifford said the find was of "huge significance." The Councilor added he is hopeful that once the current COVID-19 restrictions start to be lifted visitors from far and wide will flock to Aberdeenshire to explore this incredible find.



Researchers excavating around a construction at the Tap O' Noth site.

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Wigtown Book Festival, continued from page 19

As well as live online speaker events, the festival will feature its usual mix of film events, art exhibitions, music and performance.

Creative director Adrian Turpin said: "A key aim this year will be to raise the profile of Scotland's National Book Town in Wigtown, its businesses and the cultural attractions of Dumfries & Galloway.

"The Wigtown Book Festival has a powerful role to play as we all look forward to eventual recovery, when the region will be able to welcome visitors again.

"Nobody wanted this situation but a digital festival gives us opportunities to reach new audiences locally, nationally and internationally."

"We have already put a lot of effort into creating original digital content, because we felt it was

vital to engage our existing audiences and attract new ones throughout the crisis.

"This experience will stand us in good stead as we deliver a fully digital festival this year, with the hope that in 2021 we can all gather together again in one place."

For full information and how to participate in the Wigtown Book Festival, visit: [<mail@wigtownbookfestival.com>](mailto:mail@wigtownbookfestival.com)



Clan Septs, continued from page 15

Clan historians as slightly suspect in their accounts of Clan histories and in particular certain 'family name septs'. To again quote Sir Thomas Innes of Learney, Lord Lyon King of Arms;

"So sometimes sept families are related to the clan chief and his family, but, more likely, they would not be."

Notes:

1. FSA Scot - Fellow in the Society of Antiquarians of Scotland

2. GCVO - indicates the title holder has been awarded by the British Sovereign a Knight-hood in the UK's Royal Victorian Order. The Knight is entitled to wear the ceremonial Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order.

3. Lord Lyon, King of Arms - The Court of the Lord Lyon is the heraldic authority for Scotland, deals with all matters relating to Scottish Heraldry and Coats of Arms, and maintains the Scottish Public Registers of Arms and Genealogies. The Lord Lyon King of Arms is also responsible for State Ceremonial in Scotland.

4. QC - Queen's Counsel - lawyers appointed by letters patent to be one of "Her [or His] Majesty's Counsel learned in the law". Membership exists/existed in various British Commonwealth countries around the world and it is a sta-

tus, conferred by the Crown, which is recognised by courts. Members have the privilege of sitting within the Bar of court.

So there you have it... the entire concept of Clan Septs is filled with way more fiction than fact!

It should be noted that the generally recognized septs of Clan Davidson are all logical variants of the Davidson name, as stated in the Section on Septs.

Some Thoughts About Mac, Mc, Et Al

Closely allied with the subject of septs... there is much confusion about the meaning of and the use of "Mac" among the Gaelic peoples of the world. In truth, the Gaels used the "Mac" prefix simply to indicate that the person was the "son of" someone, such as in John MacDye

was John, the son of Dye. This prefix can be found in many different forms including Mac, Mc, Ma, and even, M'.

The most often heard myth is that the Scots always use the "Mac" form while the Irish always use the "Mc" form. This just isn't so. The reality is that Mac, Mc, Ma, and M' were frequently used interchangeably, depending on the whims of the person doing the documenting, what period in history we're discussing and where in the Celtic world we're considering.



The Armstrong Clan Society

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and those interested in those surnames.



The Armstrong Clan Society was organized on October 8, 1981 and is incorporated in the State of Georgia, USA. The Society is recognized as a Section 501 (c) (3) not for profit organization and exempt from the United States Federal Income Taxes.

On September 24, 1984, the Lord Lyon, King of Arms in Scotland, granted warrant to the Lyon Clerk to matriculate in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland in the name of the Armstrong Clan Society, Inc., the Coat of Arms to the right of this paragraph. Our motto "Semper Invictus" can be translated as "Always Unconquered."



Objectives of the Armstrong Clan Society

1. To seek friendship and unity among all Armstrongs, its septs and associated families. 2. To provide for the preservation of all armstrong artifacts unique to the family. 3. To serve as a genealogical and historical resource for the membership and the general public. 4. To provide news, Armstrong history, items of general interest and genealogy via our newsletter, *The Armstrong Chronicles*. 5. To establish worldwide geographic membership representation.

Membership

All Armstrongs, Croziers, Fairbairns, Grosiers and Nixons (regardless of the spelling and their descendants, are eligible for full membership in the Armstrong Clan Society. In the United States and Canada, dues are \$25 per year or \$45 for two years. All memberships include two adults and all minor children. In other countries, dues are \$35 per year. All dues are payable in US funds.



For membership application, email **Janet Armstrong** at <jdumeyer@hotmail.com> or download from <<http://www.armstrong.org/membership.htm>>. Note, "spouse" on the application includes: spouse, domestic partner or any other adult living at the same address.

To contact the Armstrong Clan Society president, **Chris Armstrong** at <chrisarmys@gmail.com>. Ceud Mile Failte (100,000 welcomes) to you!

For Sale: Shipwrecked Whisky That Spent Decades Underwater

Winning bidder take note:
it is not safe to drink.

Matthew Taub

IN FEBRUARY 1941, A BRITISH cargo ship known as *SS Politician* was grounded and wrecked on a submerged sandbar off the coast of Eriskay, one of the islands in Scotland's Outer Hebrides. On board were trade goods ranging from cotton to biscuits, en route to would-be customers in Jamaica and New Orleans. If, however, there was a marquee item among the ship's inventory, it was surely the whisky—264,000 bottles of it.

There was so much whisky on board that—following an initial rush among locals to rescue what they could from the foundering ship—freeloaders would still be recovering bottles nearly half a century later, even after the ship's hull was blown up and sunk to discourage more salvage (that is,



Divers, including George Currie (bottom left), pose with lucky finds in 1987.

able for human consumption,” the winning bidder will also be treated to a diving helmet and bricks from the ship itself.

When *SS Politician* ran ashore it was wartime, rationing was in effect, and resources were scarce. It's not hard to imagine, then, how excited locals were to descend upon the wreckage and retrieve as many bottles as they could—“by any means necessary,” explains Beau Wallace, direc-

With thanks to:



Atlas Obscura

looting). Some washed up on local beaches, and others were brought up by divers. One of the latter, found by professional diver George Currie in 1987, is now up for sale at Scotland's Grand Whisky Auction, where bidding closed on August 10, 2020. At press time, the bottle was already going for nearly \$8,000. Though the auction house warns unequivocally that the “bottle is not suit-

tor of the Grand Whisky Auction. According to a historical account in *Scotch Whisky* magazine, some men wore their wives' clothing as they scavenged, so as not to stain their own with telltale spilled fuel. Others reportedly traveled from as far away as the isle of Lewis, over 100 miles to the north, to get in on the action.

Continued on page 25

The Clan Skene

Association, Inc.



The Clan Skene Association, Inc., invites membership from SKENE and Septs Carison, Carney/Carnie, Curriehill, Dyas, Dyce, Dyer, Hall, Halyard/Hallyard, MacGaillard, Rennie & Skains

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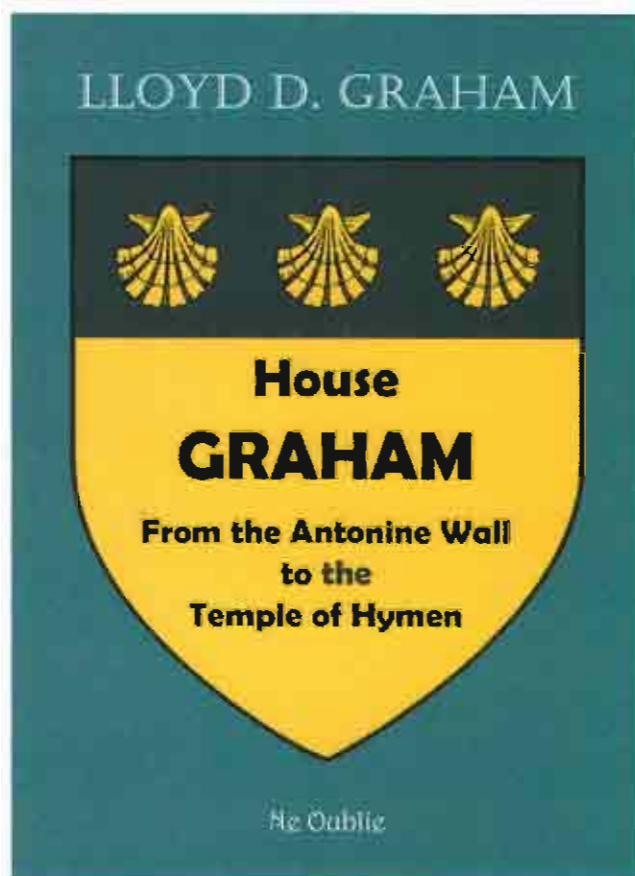


Less enthused were British authorities, who had not only lost a vessel but also the revenues (and duties) from the cargo on board. Seeking restitution, they sent officers into villages to locate some of the missing goods, and some individuals were penalized. A comic, fictionalized version of the events serves as the basis of Compton Mackenzie's 1947 novel *Whisky Galore*, which was also made into a popular movie in 1949, and again in 2016.

The bottle currently on sale, says Wallace, represents "such a unique piece of history,"—or, at the very least, a unique piece of spirits history. "Every Scotch drinker knows about *Whisky Galore*," he says.

The story didn't end, of course, with the hull's destruction, or with the cinematic makeover. There's surely still some cargo floating around the Hebrides, and another diver had found eight bottles of his own, also in 1987. (A pair of those sold for more than £12,000 in 2013.) Currie never expected to discover his bottle. It was just "a lucky dive," he says—all the luckier considering that the blasting of the ship was intended "to smash all the bottles."

This bottle—and, indeed, this spirit—represents just one aspect of the legacy of *SS Politician*. For years following the wreck, there were reports of water-damaged banknotes—10-shilling Jamaican bills held in the same area of the ship as the whisky—turning up ashore and changing hands in banks. According to *Scotch Whisky* magazine, some 290,000 of these notes were on board before the wreck, worth more than \$9 million today. After the notes showed up in Liverpool, London, and even the United States (among other places), the government announced in 1958 that 211,267 of them had been accounted for. That leaves tens of thousands that, for all we know, are still just drifting about.



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Red Hugh O'Donnell, *continued from page 15*

According to *Smithsonian Magazine*, he spent three days getting the runaround until he hooked up with the director of cultural tourism who shared Rohan's interest.

Rohan was then sent to the director of archives who informed him the search was a lost cause. Later, after Rohan had returned to Ireland, the city officials he had spoken with decided to follow up and within a year they had enough information about the whereabouts of the old chapel to begin digging on Constitution Street.

Red Hugh was born in County Donegal in Ireland about 1572, and Library Ireland relates that he was a lord of Tyrconnell, the early name for County Donegal.

At the age of twenty, he became chieftain but was, throughout his lifetime, an enemy of England from which Ireland was fighting for its independence.

When Red Hugh was sixteen, he was kidnapped by Sir John Perrot, English Lord Deputy of Ireland from 1584 to 1588, and held for several years in Dublin Castle with other Irish dissidents.

He made two escape attempts with the last being successful in 1592.

During his imprisonment, Red Hugh was openly resistant to the English and had made friends with members of another powerful family in the area, the O'Neills.

Henry and Art O'Neill escaped with Red Hugh on his second attempt, but they lost track of Henry in the city. When Art and Red Hugh laid down next to a rock to rest, they were covered from a snowfall. Art was dead and Red Hugh was nearly dead but was revived after several days of care in Glenmalur.

He was taken north to Dungannon where he and Hugh O'Neill joined together to plan more resistance fighting against the En-

glish. Red Hugh was still being tended to medically, and as a result of lying in the snow for so long had to have his big toes amputated due to frostbite.

After his recovery, he marched into County Tyrone and destroyed it because the chieftain, Sir Turlough Luineach O'Neill, was an English sympathizer. Red Hugh was pardoned and began the life of an Irish chieftain and lord but was only able to maintain this position for two years when the new English lord deputy declared martial law in Enniskillen which was ruled by the Irishman's friend Maguire. Red Hugh and his men marched into the town and destroyed it.

The English garrison was defeated at Drumane Bridge where the Irish Lords agreed to let the survivors leave unharmed. After this, Red Hugh participated in skirmishes across the area destroying English occupied castles for the next few years and accepting Philip III's aid. In 1599, he and O'Neill defeated the English at Yellow

Ford and a few months later defeated an English army under Sir Conyers Clifford at Ballaghboy.

As the wars continued on for several years, O'Neill and Red Hugh enlisted the Spaniards for more men and weapons. Phillip III invited Red Hugh to come to Zamora in Spain but neglected to effectively fulfill his promises of support. Red Hugh traveled to Spain but died before he reached the King. If any of the bones found in the archaeological site are missing the two toes, scientists will know for sure that they have the remains of Red Hugh. If not, his descendants are ready to take DNA tests.



**Have you ever known that *Cardus* is the Latin name for a thistle?
Cardonnacum is the Latin term for a place festooned with thistles.**

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Flower of the Forest

John Hume



As the leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP), **John Hume** helped create the climate that brought an end to violence in Northern Ireland.

When the IRA called a ceasefire in August 1994, it was greeted with jubilation and relief across Northern Ireland.

Despite enormous criticism, Hume always defended his decision to talk to Sinn Féin in order to build that peace process.

While many people were involved, the SDLP leader's role was crucial.

"Politics," he once said, "is the alternative to war."

John Hume's involvement in the cauldron of Northern Ireland politics began on the streets of his home city, Londonderry, where he was born in 1937.

Post-war education reforms enabled him to win a scholarship to the local grammar school and he trained briefly for the priesthood, before returning to work as a teacher.

Drawn into public life, Hume began to campaign on issues such as housing and helped set up a credit union in his native city. But more traumatic times lay ahead.

Despite a majority nationalist population, Derry's council was controlled by unionists - and its reform was among the key demands of the civil rights movement.

Hume lived in the Bogside, scene of some of the earliest confrontations, and he witnessed at first hand the slide from peaceful protest to violent street confrontation.

As the situation in Northern Ireland became worse, he joined with other constitutional nationalists, including Gerry Fitt, in founding the SDLP. Its objective was a united Ireland - but this was only to be achieved by consent.

When a march to an Army camp, where some of the internees were being held, turned to confrontation, it was Hume who voiced the protesters' anger, confronting an Army officer and asking him: "Are you proud of the way your men have treated these people?"

In the years that followed, John Hume's influence continued to grow. Initiatives such as the Sunningdale Agreement, which established a short-lived power sharing assembly involving unionists and nationalists,

were a tribute to his campaigning.

In 1985, he played a key role in negotiations over the Anglo-Irish Agreement which for the first time gave Dublin a limited say in the affairs of Northern Ireland.

Elected as the MP for Foyle in 1983, he was also well regarded as a Member of the European Parliament. He had enormous influence in the United States, where he rubbed shoulders with Teddy Kennedy and Bill Clinton.

But it was in direct talks with Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams, which reached a new intensity in 1994, that he took his biggest risk in the search for peace, provoking unionist fury.

The Hume-Adams talks helped pave the way for the historic Downing Street declara-



Continued on page 31



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John Hume, *continued from page 29*

tion, and the IRA ceasefire months later.

The ceasefire was to last 17 months before being blown apart by a bomb in London's docklands. But even though the IRA returned to its campaign of violence, the Hume-Adams dialogue continued as multi-party talks began without Sinn Féin in 1996.

The following year saw the election of Tony Blair's Labour government, which agreed to multi-party talks continuing in tandem with the decommissioning of paramilitary weapons.

Sinn Féin was to be invited to participate, provided that the IRA reinstated its ceasefire.

In July 1997 the ceasefire came, followed two months later by Sinn Féin's inclusion in the talks. Once again, John Hume had been central to momentous events in Northern Ireland.

It did not stop all the violence as John Hume had hoped but he was able to argue that hundreds of lives had been saved.

John Hume never lost the conviction that negotiations would, in the end, provide the solution and, he saw the 1998 Good Friday Agreement as proof of all he had argued for over the years. It was his crowning political moment; the agreement would not have happened with-

out him.

His contribution was recognised with the award of the Nobel Peace Prize which he received jointly with Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble.

John Hume had difficulties remembering day-to-day occurrences, his wife Pat said

Whatever the subsequent developments in the fractious politics of Northern Ireland, Hume's reputation remained intact.

Along with his Nobel Prize, he was awarded the Gandhi Peace Prize and the Martin Luther King Award, and in 2010 a poll by Irish broadcaster RTÉ named him "Ireland's Greatest Person", beating the likes of Mary Robinson, Michael Collins and Bono to the



title.

During a visit to Derry in 2014, former US president Bill Clinton said "this town and John Hume's insistence on non-violence and the embrace of it ultimately by the other parties, notably Sinn Féin," served as an inspiration.

He added: "I implore you, for the sake of the young people and all of those who did so much for so long, like John Hume - finish the job."



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19 A cutaway drawing showing life in the broch tower of Dun Carloway in Lewis. The ground floor is used for animal shelter and for storage, while domestic activity is concentrated on the upper floors.

Broch Tower of Dun Carloway in Lewis as it was lived in so very long ago

A few weeks ago, I found a book in our library at home entitled *Celtic Scotland*, written by Ian Armit.

The book just fell open to a cutaway drawing of the broch tower of Dun Carloway in Lewis. I remember being there like it was yester-

day.

I remember trying to figure out how you would really live there. I remembered how I felt when I realized that most likely, all those years ago, some of my own - and everyone of Scottish heri-

Continued on page 35

The Clan Macneil

Association of America

If you are a Macneil or any of the following "Sept Names" then you have found the clan you have been searching for.



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| * MacNeill | * McNeale | * Oneil | * McGugan |
| * MacNeillie | * McNeilage | * Oneill | * Macgugan |
| * Macneal | * Mcneilage | * Nelson | * McGuigan |
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| * Macneilage | * Mcneally | * Macgougan | |
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| * Macneally | * Neale | * MacGuigan | |
| * Mcneil | * Neill | * Macguigan | |
| * McNeil | * Niel | * McGougan | |



Broch Tower of Dun Carloway in Lewis,
continued from page 33



tage, had ancestors who had been right here where I was standing that day.

As I remember, I got back on the bus with our tour group and babbled to everyone about that. I also think I cried during the babbling part.

It was a magical day for me.

I think I remember climbing stairs to the top and gazing out over the North Sea.

The cutaway drawing answered all of my questions! I emailed Historic Scotland and asked permission to use the drawing. They were delightful and gave permission.

If you have been to one of Scotland's brochs, look closely at this drawing. It would have been quite a comfortable place to live, don't you think?

The ISBN for this book is 0-7134-7538-2. It's filled with fascinating things. It's *Celtic Scotland* by Ian Armit. The cutaway is on page 38.

Aye, Beth, your editor



**UK's first vertical launch
spaceport is given lift off.**

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) wants to build the controversial £17.3m satellite launch site on peatland on the Moine Peninsula near Tongue in Sutherland.

Council officials have said launches should be limited to 12 per year.

Among the reasons for this is the amount of plastic and metal debris falling into the sea during rocket launches.

Twelve would see an estimated five tonnes of carbon fibre reinforced plastic and seven tonnes of metal alloy dropping into the sea each year, according to the officials' report.

Councillors on Highland Council's north planning applications committee will consider the proposals for Space Hub Sutherland on Friday.

The planning officer's report - which has recommended approval with a raft of conditions - report says: "The proposed development is unique and if permitted could be one of the first developments of its kind in Europe.

"However, as with all applications, the benefits of the proposal must be weighed against potential drawbacks and then considered in the round, taking account of the relevant policies of the Development.

"The development has attracted a large number of objections from across the world but also a level of support has been demonstrated.

"Consultee comments have been addressed in the report and subject to a number of conditions and development of the proposals in accordance with the required conditions there are no outstanding objections to the proposed development from consultees."



OH, CANADA!



<https://electriccanadian.com>



Follow-up concerning DNA information and Ancestry.com's sale to Blackstone in a \$4.7 billion deal

Dick Eastman

I published an article 2 days ago (at <https://bit.ly/31Im9sL>) containing an announcement that *Ancestry.com* and all its subsidiaries are to be sold to the Blackstone Group Inc. for \$4.7 billion (US) including debt. The announcement was brief and contained very few details.

As you might expect, the announcement has generated a lot of questions amongst genealogists asking questions about the future of the company and how the services might change. Many of those questions concern the privacy of DNA information presently

held by *Ancestry.com*.

An article this morning by Kevin Truong in the

Vice.com web site answered a few questions concerning the company's DNA business. He writes: "*Ancestry* is known for its genealogy and home DNA testing services. According to its website, the company has 3 million paying subscribers, 27 billion records, and 100 million family trees. The website also says that over 18 million people have been DNA tested through the company.

"To be crystal clear, Blackstone will not have access to user data and we are deeply committed to ensuring strong consumer pri-

vacuity protections at the company," a spokesperson for Blackstone told *Motherboard* in an email. "We will not be sharing user DNA and family tree records with our portfolio companies."

"A spokesperson from *Ancestry* also said the company's relationship with its users would remain the same.

"*Ancestry's* terms and conditions and privacy statement that is in effect for our users remains the same and *Ancestry's* commitments to protect our customers' personal data has not changed," the spokesperson said."



The full article at https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/akzyq5/private-equity-firm-blackstone-bought-ancestry-dna-company-for-billions goes on for much longer. However, I found it interesting the final paragraph provides interesting advice for genealogists and others:

"Ultimately, the multi-billion dollar trading of *Ancestry* between investment companies is another reminder that when you hand over your DNA, you never know who might eventually own it."

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National Genealogical Society Announces Its 2020 Awards & Competition Honorees and more...

The following announcement was written by the (U.S.) National Genealogical Society:

The National Genealogical Society (NGS) announced its 2020 award honorees and competition winners at its Virtual Family History Conference NGS 2020 Live! on 20 May 2020. The following awards were announced to recognize excellence, achievement, and genealogical service.

National Genealogy Hall of Fame: **George Ely Russell, CG®, FASG, FNGS**

NGS introduced its National Genealogy Hall of Fame in 1986. The award honors outstanding genealogists whose achievements in American genealogy have had a great impact on the field. We invite you to visit the National Genealogy Hall of Fame and learn about its honorees. This year George Ely Russell, nominated by the American Society of Genealogists, was elected to the National

its high scholarly standards. NGSQ became recognized as one of the four leading genealogical journals, the position it holds today. For several years, he was editor and publisher of *Genealogical Periodical Annual Index*, a pioneer publication in that field. His numerous articles on early Maryland families represent a significant contribution to the literature. As a lecturer at major genealogical conferences, he was an inspiration, mentor, and teacher to many aspiring genealogists.

Over the years, Russell also served on the NGS Council and as a contributing editor for *The American Genealogist* (1982–1993), a contributing editor for *Western Maryland Genealogy* (1985–2013), and founder and first president of the Prince George's County (MD) Genealogical Society (1969). He was the recipient of the NGS Distinguished Service Award (1978); a Fellow, American Society of Genealogists (1980–2013); a Fel-



NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY®

Genealogy Hall of Fame. Born in Niagara Falls, New York, on 24 November 1927, George died in Ijamsville, Maryland, on 9 January 2013.

In 1955, Russell started writing what became a massive output of genealogical articles and books, reaching around 150 publications. From 1970 to 1986, he served as editor of the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* (NGSQ), bringing it to

low, National Genealogical Society (1981); and a board-certified associate (Certified Genealogist®) of the Board for Certification of Genealogists® (1967–2012).

Russell's dry sense of humor was enjoyed by many. He was dedicated, knowledgeable, and a

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wonderful friend to those who were fortunate to know him personally. His legacy of accumulated genealogical material will be valuable to generations to come.

NGS Fellow: Ronald Ames Hill, PhD, CG, CGLSM

NGS Fellows are recognized for their outstanding work in genealogy or the related fields of history, biography, or heraldry, in addition to significant service to the National Genealogical Society. This year's Fellow is Ronald Ames Hill of Portland, Oregon.

Hill is among the most prolific NGSQ authors. To date, the journal has published eighteen of his articles. Thirty of his genealogical articles have appeared in other publications. Hill has served on NGSQ's editorial board for seventeen years. In that capacity, he provides the authors with detailed, helpful comments on papers submitted for publication.

A former NGS board member and speaker, Hill has also spoken at numerous genealogical Societies and Genealogical Conferences. He is the author of *North American Cornish (and English) Families* (The Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, 2008) and *Eight model family histories* (The Filby Award of Excellence for a Genealogy and Family History Book, 2010).

The President's Citation: Ric Murphy

The President's Citation is given in recognition of exceptional, continuing, or unusual contributions to genealogy or the Society. Ric Murphy, national vice president for history for the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS) is this year's recipient of the President's Citation. The award recognizes Murphy for his extraordinary career as an educator, historian, scholar, lecturer, and award-winning author. His work explores the roles and rich contributions made by African Americans in United States history.

As a direct result of his groundbreaking research, Murphy learned that his African American family lineage dates to the earliest colonial periods of Plymouth, Massachusetts, and Jamestown, Virginia. In 1983 he submitted his mother's appli-

cation to the Daughters of the American Revolution. She became the first African American DAR member during modern times to be recognized for her descent from an African American Revolutionary soldier, an enslaved man named Caesar Russell.

Through his leadership, Murphy has helped residents of communities of color understand the historical and genealogical importance of the African diaspora, the importance of personal genealogical research, and learning about and connecting to their African roots. He has conducted training sessions to help Americans of African descent find their Revolutionary War ancestors and has assisted many to become members of the lineage societies of the Daughters and the Sons of the American Revolution. He is one of the founders and charter members of the only African American lineage society, the Sons and Daughters of the Passage.

Murphy chaired AAHGS's four-hundredth Anniversary Commission, bringing attention to the first documented African American in America in 1619, at Point Comfort, Virginia; and helped to guide the development of the historic contributions of Americans of African descent over a four-hundred-year period.

The Filby Award for Genealogical Librarianship: Kris Rzepczynski

The Filby Award, sponsored by ProQuest since 2006 with its \$1,000 prize, is presented to Kris Rzepczynski, senior archivist, the Archives of Michigan, in Lansing, Michigan.

State Archivist Mark Harvey says Rzepczynski "embodies the many aspects of an exemplary genealogical librarian/archivist." He worked with the Abrams Family Historical Collection at the Library of Michigan from 1998 to 2012. In 2012, he moved, with the Collection, to the Archives of Michigan. He continued hosting the Abrams Family History Seminar and introduced researcher "lock-ins" the night before the seminar, drawing up to fifty researchers who could get one-on-one research attention from a team of family

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history archivists and librarians.

Rzepczynski regularly writes articles on genealogy research tips and book reviews for the *Trace*, the magazine of the Archives of Michigan, and averages thirty to forty presentations per year, from New York state throughout Michigan and west to Montana. His work and infectious enthusiasm for family history have helped many researchers clear log jams in their research and inspired them to help others.

Working tirelessly to promote archival collections and assist researchers, Rzepczynski still finds time to preserve the collections for the future. Currently, he oversees the acquisition of many Michigan county records that will be housed at the Archives of Michigan. He works with *FamilySearch* on digitizing records in projects such as the Michigan Naturalization Project and the Michigan Probate Project.

The Conference Award of

Honor is presented to the Utah Genealogical Association, Kelly Summers, president, in recognition of the Association's dedication and sustained service in support of the 2020 NGS Family History Conference.

Conference Certificates of Appreciation are given to those who worked unstintingly to plan this year's conference. The honorees include: Conference Chair Luana Darby, ag®; Conference Blog Editor Valerie Elkins; Hospitality Chair Rebecca Dalton; Librarians' Day Moderator Kim Harrison; Local Events Chairs Katrena Mortenson and Zachary Hamilton; Local Host Committee Chair Tristan Tolman, AG; Registration Chair Suzannah Beasley, ag; Local Publicity Chair Erin Pritchett; Vendor Support Co-Chairs Pat Richley-Erickson and Gordon Erickson; and Volunteer Chair Ken Smith.

NGS COMPETITIONS

The NGS Awards for Excellence are presented for a specific, significant single contribution in the form of a family genealogy or family history book, a publication discussing or demonstrating genealogical methods and sources, or an article published in the NGS Quarterly.

Award for Excellence: Genealogy and Family History Book

This year's recipient is **George L. Findlen**, CG, CGL, of Madison, Wisconsin. The title of his book is *Our Acadian Martin Family History; The First Four Generations*, 1650-1800.

Honorable mention: Cdr. Stephen F. Snell, USN (Ret.) for his book, *Descendants of Thomas Snell (1634-1725): of Fillongley, Warwickshire, England and Bridgewater, Plymouth.*

Award for Excellence: Genealogical Methods and Sources

Robert C. Anderson, FASG, is this year's recipient. The title of his book is *Puritan Pedigrees: The Deep*

Roots of the Great Migration to New England.

Award for Excellence: National Genealogical Society Quarterly

Melinda Daffin Henningfield, CG, of Ashland, Oregon, received the Award for Excellence for her article, *A Family for Mary (Jones) Hobbs Clark of Carroll County, Arkansas*, published in the March 2019 issue of the *NGSQ*.

The NGS Newsletter Competition honors excellence in newsletter editorship in three categories:

Major Genealogical and/or Historical Societies

This year's winner is *The Virginia Genealogical Society Newsletter*, published by the Virginia Genealogical Society, Orange, Virginia, edited by Deborah R. Harvey.

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Local Genealogical and/or Historical Societies

The winner is *The Heritage*, newsletter of the Gwinnett Historical Society, Lawrenceville, Georgia, edited by Miriam Machida.

Honorable mention: *The Newsletter of the Irish Family History Forum*, Long Island, New York, edited by Jim Regan.

Family Associations.

The 2020 recipient is *The Hungerford World Tree*, newsletter of The Hungerford Family Foundation, Inc., in Bonita Springs, Florida, edited by Charles C. Morgan.

Honorable Mention: *The Seeley Genealogical Society Newsletter*, published by the Seeley Genealogical Society in Abilene, Kansas, edited by Paul Taylor.

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Rubincam Youth Writing Contest was established in 1986 to encourage and recognize our youth as the next generation of family historians. It honors Milton Rubincam, CG, FASG, FNGS, for his many years of service to NGS and to the field of genealogy.

Jason DiRusso of Vestavia Hill, Alabama, is the winner of this year's Senior Category for students in grades ten through twelve. The title of his entry is *The Family History of a Boy and His Dog*.

Andrea Bergamaschi, of Fossombrone, Italy, is the winner of the **Junior Rubincam Youth Award** for students in grades seven through nine. The title of her entry is *A Dad, my Superhero: Life of Valerio Bergamaschi*.

Honorable mentions were presented to Logan

Starkey (Senior Category), of Malvern, Arkansas, for his paper, *Up Close and Personal with Four Generations*, and Elizabeth Bradshaw (Junior Category) of Centerville, Virginia, for her paper, *Carline Grove: A Biography*.

The National Genealogical Society congratulates all of the 2020 award recipients and contest winners. Sincere thanks go to the volunteer judges, chairs, and evaluators from across the country who generously gave their time and expertise to review the submissions for each award and competition.

Thanks, too, to Janet Bailey, chair of the Awards Committee, and Susan Yockey of the NGS staff.

NGS asks you to help us with next year's awards. You probably know an individual or organization who exemplifies the quali-

ties we honor with our awards. You may know someone who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of genealogy, or maybe you have been impressed with a local newsletter. Please consider nominating them or encourage someone to enter one of our competitions.

Founded in 1903, the National Genealogical Society is dedicated to genealogical education, exemplary standards of research, and the preservation of genealogical records. The Falls Church, Virginia, based nonprofit is the premier national society for everyone, from the beginner to the most advanced family historian, seeking excellence in publications, educational offerings, and guidance in research. It also offers many opportunities to interact with other genealogists.



Congratulations to all of the National Genealogical Society winners!