

Vol. XV No. 4 *Beth's Newfangled Family Tree* September 2021 Section B

FIREFOX BECOMES THE FIRST MAJOR BROWSER AVAILABLE IN SCOTS



The Firefox web browser has become the first major software available in the Scots language. The project, led by Edinburgh-based localization provider *Rubric*, seeks to promote the language and will be available for users from the 10th of August 2021.

Recognition of the Scots language has grown recently in Scottish schools, parliament and on social media. However, speakers have had limited options for software in their own language.

Rubric hopes that this new language option will change that by allowing learners and fluent speakers to browse the web in Scots.

A renaissance of the Scots language

The 2011 Scottish census reported that 1.9 million people could speak, read, write or understand

Continued on page 5

Fall begins in the Northern Hemisphere when the Sun is perpendicular to the equator. This day has equal hours of day and night. The first day of Fall is also called the Autumnal Equinox. In many areas, it coincides with harvests. The first day of Fall happens each year between September 22 and 24.

In 2021 the Autumnal Equinox occurs on September 22



The Armstrong Clan Society

**Dedicated to the Armstrongs,
Crosiers, Fairbairns, Grosiers, Nixons
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!

Society of Antiquaries of Scotland



Excavations at Dun Fiadhairt



Help Us Find the Forgotten Countess, Skye's First Archaeologist

Our latest project, Forgotten Stories, is a documentary series focusing on the lives of women who made contributions to Scottish archaeology over the past few centuries, led by Dr Nela Scholma-Mason FSAScot (and supported by AOC Archaeology Group).

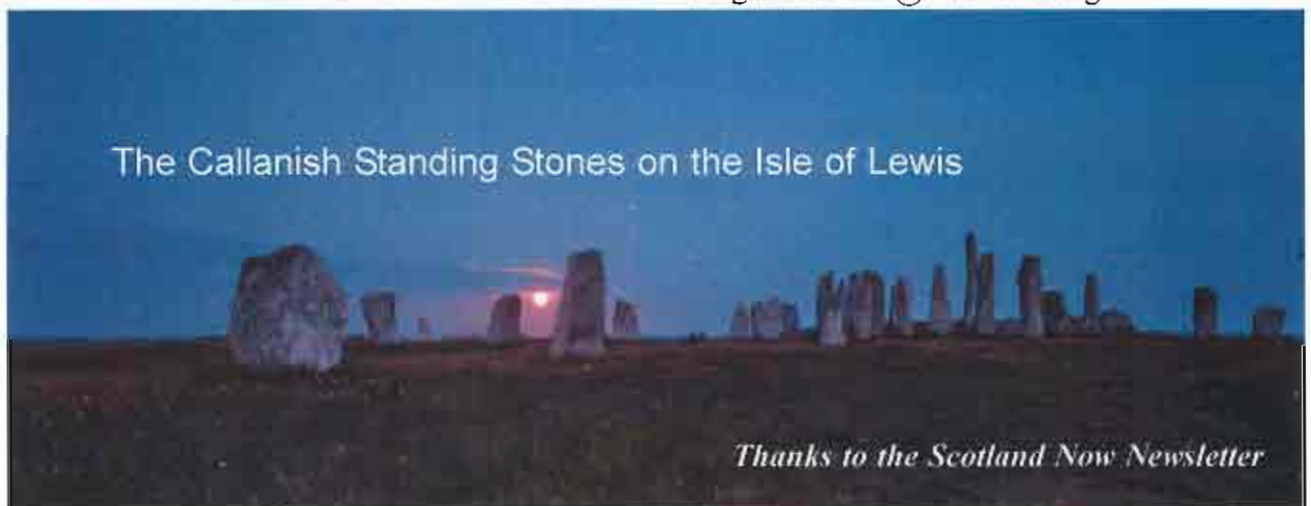
One of the stories we are currently working on is that of Johanna (Hanna) von Ettingshausen (1854-1942) – mostly known as Countess Baillet de Latour (her name from her second marriage, 1897-1913), although she had previously been Mrs MacLeod (1881-1895) of Dunvegan.

She excavated 'Dun an Iardhard' (Dun Fiadhairt) (probably in 1892) and Dun Beag (1914-20) and had a strong connection to the Isle of Skye and its antiquities.

We are currently looking for more information on Hanna – if you know of any documents relating to her (such as letters, diaries or photographs), we would be very keen to hear from you.

You can email us at
<ForgottenStories@socantscot.org>

The Callanish Standing Stones on the Isle of Lewis



Thanks to the Scotland Now Newsletter

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West Highland Way named '6th most beautiful hiking route in the world'

With the great outdoors offering a safe escape in the current climate, many people are searching for walking holidays and days out as the top choice of getaway.

With there still being uncertainty around travel abroad, thankfully Scotland offers one of the most beautiful wee countries to explore on our doorstep.

In fact, two of Scotland's top trails have featured in a recent study of the world's top 20 most photographed on *Instagram*.

The *West Highland Way* in Scotland is the UK's most popular trail with 1,180 photos per mile, more than twice the amount for Tour du Mont Blanc in the French Alps.

The *West Highland Way* is between Bridge of Orchy and Kinlochleven

The other Scottish trail making the list is the ever-



popular 117 miles long Fife Coastal Path (15th).

Other UK hiking trails in the top 20 include the South Downs Way (10th globally), and the Thames Path (12th).

The research, conducted by outdoor sports and

Continued on page 11

Firefox goes Scots, continued from page 1

Scots. Despite this, there has been less drive to incorporate it into technological products than other minority languages, such as Scots Gaelic.

Ashley Douglas, writer, researcher, and translator for the project explains the importance of Scots language software: "This project shows Scots being used as the fully-fledged, fully functioning, fully legitimate modern language that it is. It's wonderful that *Rubric* and *Mozilla* are committed to doing this, and it was a real pleasure to help *Rubric* deliver on the goal."

Fellow translator and Scots writer Thomas Clark notes that the browser will provide validation for native speakers. He says "For younger speakers especially, it's so important that they see that Scots is out there so they're not embarrassed about using it. Being able to access the internet through a Scots medium makes so much difference to their confidence, their development, and hopefully to the status of the language."

What it takes to translate a browser into Scots

As Scots has not been used extensively in the technological sphere before, the team had to coin

some new terms.

Clark says "The real challenge was finding a medium between an interesting, lively accessible Scots and making sure that it wasn't too antiquated or whimsical."

Françoise Henderson, CEO of *Rubric*, hopes the publicity around the browser will encourage the Scots community to build upon their efforts to promote the Scots language in the technology domain.

She says: "It's unusual for a commercial company like us to do this kind of thing. Usually, the community translates for *Mozilla*. For us, it's very much a seeding exercise, it's not a commercial exercise. The language has to live and the community has to take over now."

Founded by Françoise and Ian Henderson in 1994, *Rubric* works with global businesses to grow their international reach through localization services and global content strategy. *Rubric* regularly donates resources to important volunteer projects having previously translated *Firefox* into Xhosa and donated *Wikipedia* translations of key health information during the 2014 Ebola virus epidemic in West Africa.

Learn more about *Rubric* at <rubric.com>

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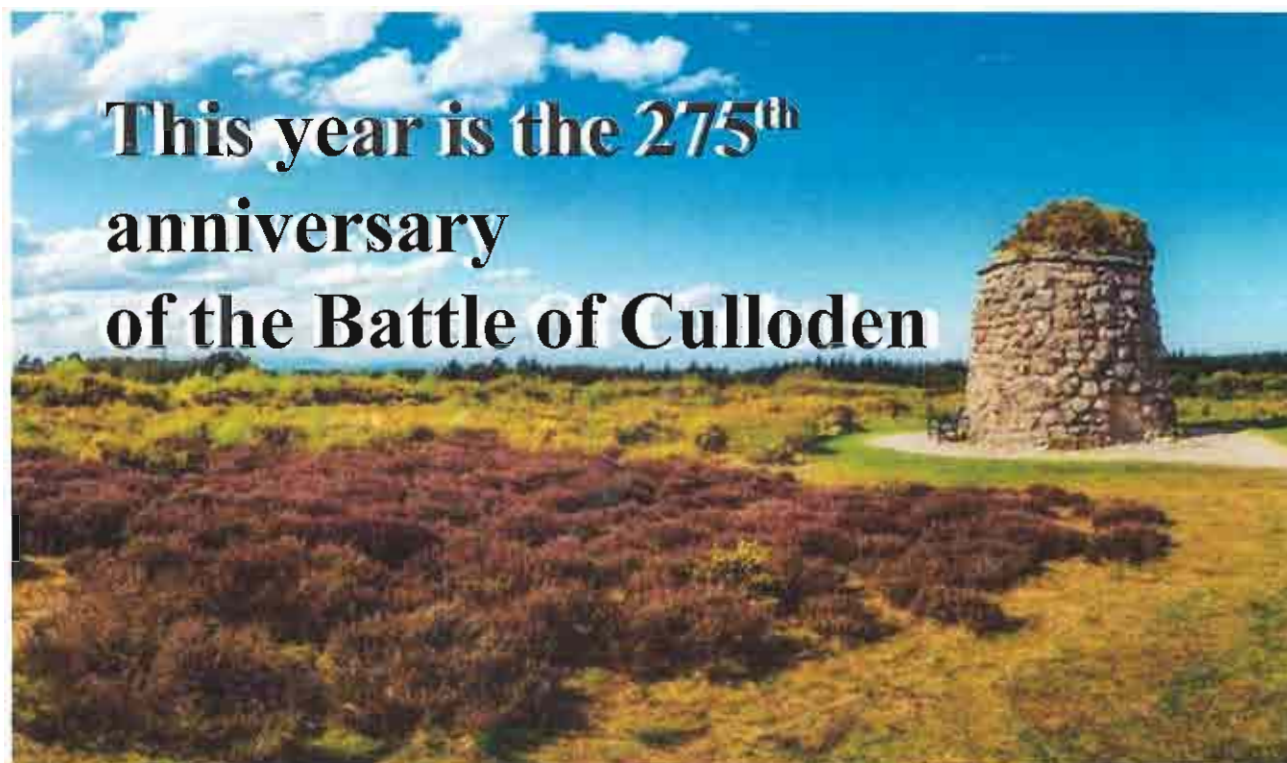
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This year is the 275th anniversary of one of the bloodiest and most famous battles ever fought in Scotland.

The last major battle on British soil, the wild moor is the resting place for many who fought and died in the battle between the Jacobite and British Government forces in 1746.

Visitors can now walk along the battle lines and pay respect to those who lost their lives during the historic clash.

Currently looked after and cared for by the National Trust for Scotland, Culloden Battlefield is one of the most important heritage sites in the country and well worth a visit.

Culloden is one of Scotland's most important heritage sites (Image: National Trust for Scotland/PA)

What happened in the Battle of Culloden?

Taking place on April 16, 1746, the battle at

Culloden saw a Jacobite army, which had won victories at Prestonpans and Falkirk, face off against a much larger British Government force which had been sent to end their uprising.

Led by Charles Edward Stuart, known as Bonnie Prince Charlie, the Jacobite force sought to restore the Stuarts to the British throne.



They met a larger, well-rested Hanoverian government force under Prince William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland on the open ground of the moor.

After just an hour, the exhausted Jacobites, who first had to face a one sided artillery barrage before

Continued on page 9



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The Battle of Culloden, *continued from page 7*

charging across a rain drenched field to reach the Government line, were forced into retreat.

How many Scots died at the Battle of Culloden?

The rout saw around 1,500 Jacobite casualties - the force was made up predominately of Scots but with some French, English and Irish who also fought on the Jacobean side - to just 300 of the Hanoverians.

The reported tactic of the more disciplined Government line saw them bayonet the enemy diagonally to the right of them on the Jacobite's vulnerable swinging sword hand side.

This meant they had more success than fighting the better defended one directly in front, helping them to break the opposing Highlander lines.

After the Jacobites fled the field in defeat, many of those that managed to get away were brutally hunted down, captured and killed, effectively ending the uprising.

Did Bonnie Prince Charlie die at Culloden?

No, the Young Pretender was helped by many of his own men, as well as locals, to evade the Government troops for five long months before eventually fleeing to France, never to return to Scotland.

The story of his flight from the battle and subsequently to Benbecula and on to the Isle of Skye inspired the *Skye Boat Song*, the famous Scottish tune used as the theme song for *Outlander*.

Where is the Culloden battlefield located?

The site of the battle lies just four miles east of the city of Inverness.

Is Culloden Battlefield free?

Yes, you can enter the battlefield for free but the visitor centre at Culloden, which is open every day between 10am and 4pm, is worth the entrance fee to get a real understanding about what happened on the field that day.

You'll find a museum with artefacts from the battle itself, a 360-degree battle immersion theatre (putting visitors right in the heart of the action), the restored 18th-century Leanach Cottage (which was around during the battle) and a shop filled with memorabilia (and even a whisky).

To find out more or book your tickets in advance, visit nts.org.uk

The Culloden Coos

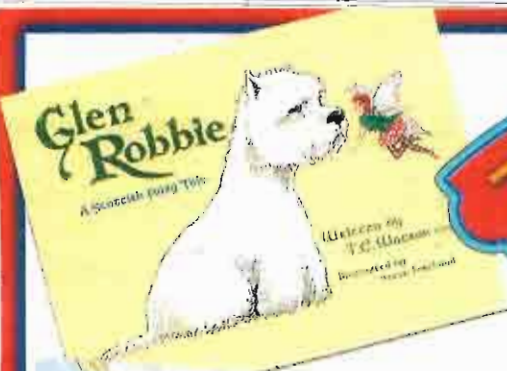
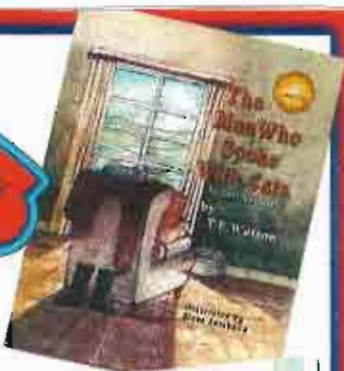
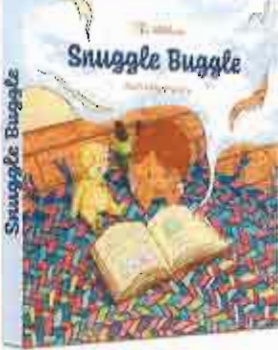

Visitors are also invited to say hello to the new conservation team of coos which are currently grazing the battlefield.

Joining 12 Shetland cattle, six primitive goats and two Highland ponies who all take part in conservation grazing on the battlefield site, the animals work to control the scrub and create a healthy moorland.

These animals play a crucial role in maintaining the landscape to showcase what the battlefield would have looked like in 1746. The Trust relies on the herd to provide continuous work on the moorland to protect the archaeology of the land and the natural flora and fauna.

Some of the new cows and calves give a little nod to Culloden's past, with Flora and Lady Anne named after strong Jacobite women who assisted the Bonnie Prince during and in the wake of the 1745 Rising. Others have more quirky names, including the stellar new calf, Rocket.



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T.E. WATSON

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Hiking Trails in Scotland, *continued from page 5*

outdoor shoe specialists Zalando, analysed nearly five million Instagram hashtags from the world's most famous hiking trails.

The data revealed the *Inca Trail* in Peru to be the world's most picturesque, followed by Spain's *Camino de Santiago* and the *Refugio Frey* and *Cerro Catedral Trail* in Argentina.

Speaking about the famous Scottish route, the Zalando team said: "As the UK's most photogenic hiking trail, the *West Highland Way* offers glistening lochs, verdant forests and towering mountain peaks.

"It begins just outside Glasgow, snaking its way north for 96 miles to Fort William, with accommodation and refreshments all along the way."

Heather Morning, Mountain Safety Advisor with *Mountaineering Scotland*, says: "The dramatic landscapes, wildlife and flora, ease of access (particularly on the *West Highland Way*), human history and unrivalled right to roam laws make Scotland a top place to visit.

"There has been a massive increase in the numbers of people enjoying the Scottish mountains and countryside, as would be expected with Covid-19 and the associated difficulties travelling abroad."

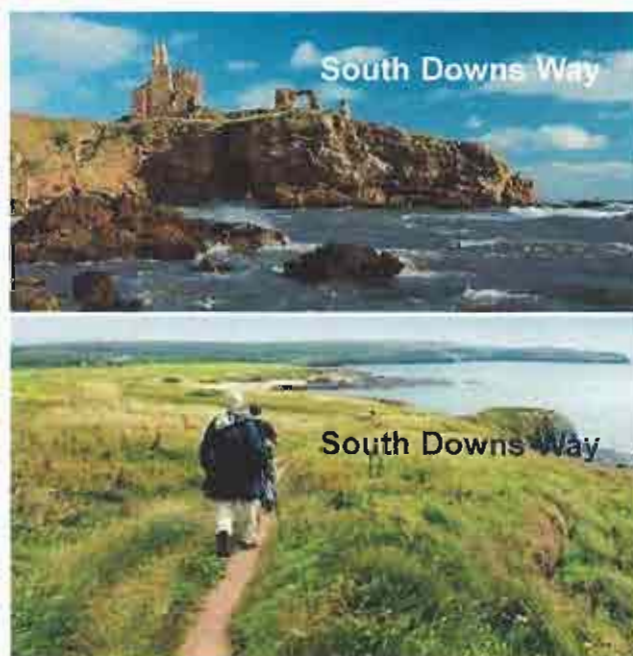
Heather added that when lockdown was lifted last summer, Scottish Mountain Rescue saw a 35% increase in the number of call-outs, compared to the same period in the previous year.

She said: "When hiking, it's important to be respectful and considerate to others and the environment. Solid preparation is also vital.

"We've just launched an initiative called 'Sofa 2 Summit', which is a free online resource for those who are new to the hills. It's a great place for people to start when planning their adventures."

Taeun Lee, UK/IE Retail Manager for Zalando, said: "Over the last 18 months, lockdowns have given people a new appreciation of time spent outdoors. And because international travel has largely been off the menu, many have come to look closer to home for a getaway.

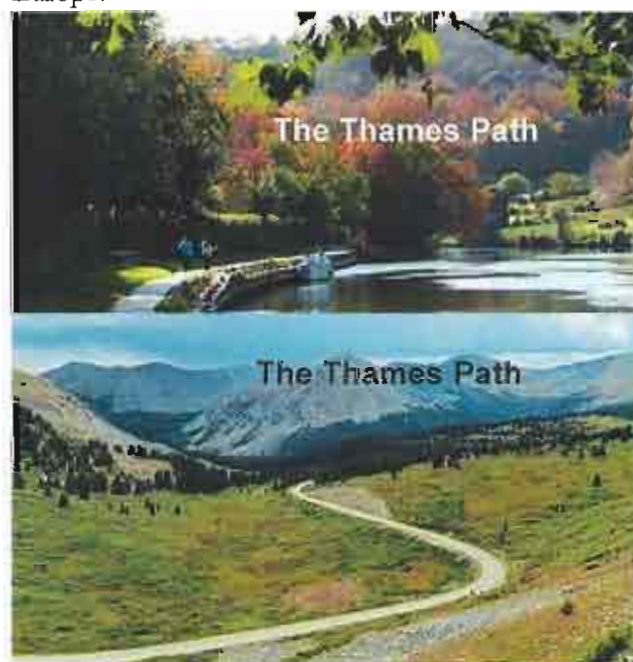
"As the data shows, the UK has many, many options for those wanting to rediscover the Great Outdoors, so if you want to get out and see some



natural beauty in the UK, it's really easy to do so.

"However, it's important to get the right gear for a hiking trip, even if that just means comfortable footwear. The public is aware of this though and we've had sales of outdoor-specific gear double in 2020, compared to the year before.

"Good gear is an investment: it can be used for years on end to explore the plentiful hiking trails in Europe."



THE CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY

'S Rioghal Mo Dhream!

Royal is my Race!

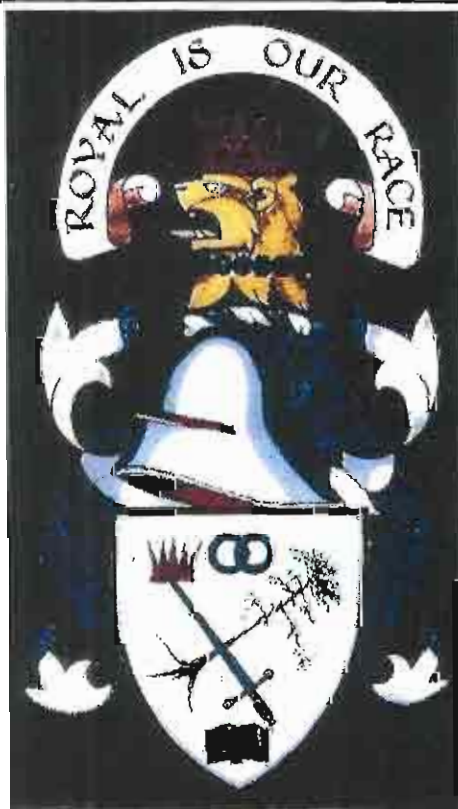
Fàilte! The Clan Gregor Society is a growing organisation with membership throughout the world. It's most active objectives are to extend the links of kinship and friendship between MacGregors, wherever they may be, and to provide a focal point for all members of the Clan and interested visitors who wish to learn more of our noble past.

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Scots military treasures preserved thanks to £4m museum transformation at Stirling Castle

The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum at Stirling Castle has reopened its doors to the public, after being officially opened by Her Majesty the Queen.

The museum embarked on a lengthy transformation and renovation project in September 2018 to ensure its historic military legacy was preserved for future generations.

Now, for the first time in almost three years, staff have opened the doors allowing a stunning look at the new-look museum which officially reopens to the public on Wednesday 30 June.

Home to a wealth of military treasures and artefacts, the museum brings the rich culture and heritage of one of Scotland's great Highland regiments to life. The museum weaves a rich tapestry, connecting the Regiment to the local communities around Scotland from where its soldiers and their families came from.

Through its thematic approach, the museum aims to engage with audiences of all ages and knowledge, offering something for everyone.

With over 5,000 objects in the Museum's collection, many of the artefacts and displays cover the fascinating history of the Regiment. From its involvement in numerous global conflicts and insight into what life was like as a serving soldier and its impact on family life, to incredible personal items donated to the museum – some with astonishing and poignant stories.

All renovation work has been carried out with meticulous care to protect, conserve and compliment the archaeology of the King's Old Building which dates from the late 14th Century and is believed to be one of the oldest structures still standing at Stirling Castle.

Work has included opening up the original vaults on the ground floor, creating a new floor to house museum displays and improved access via a new central stairway. The galleries have been created with engaging storyboards and displays to show off the nationally recognised collection of artefacts, silver and original artwork, together with fascinating audio-visual displays. Conservation standard display cases and eco-friendly lighting have been installed to meet modern museum standards.

Colonel AK Miller, Project Director, said: "This project has taken nine years to plan and deliver. With the loss of Scotland's historic regiments, it is important to ensure this unique element of our history is not lost. Throughout their tour, visitors will find themselves immersed in Scotland's proud military and cultural heritage.

"We are very grateful to the National Lottery Heritage Fund together with many other donors, large and small, who have helped deliver this ambitious project. It could not have been achieved without the support of Historic Environment Scotland and we look forward to working in close partnership with them in the future."

Richard Hickson, CEO of *The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum*, said: We approach an incredibly important achievement as we prepare to reopen our doors after almost three years of hard work.

"Setting itself against the broader history of Scotland, our museum tells a fascinating story covering significant periods in Scottish history. From the Highland Clearances and the industrialisation of West-Central Scotland to shipbuilding and engineering on Clydeside, we have brought to life the activities of the Regiment's soldiers and their families, both in Scotland and across the globe."

The museum operates as part of a partnership agreement with Historic Environment Scotland, who run Stirling Castle and have supported the refurbishment through grant funding and conservation work to help upgrade the site and visitor offer, as well as providing additional support in areas such as educational activities and on-site interpretation.

Alex Paterson, Chief Executive at Historic Environment Scotland, said: "We are pleased to see the museum ready to reopen its doors after what has been a sizeable endeavour to reimagine and retell the story of The Argylls."

"The Argylls are a key part of the fabric and story of the castle, which spans many hundreds of years, and we are delighted to have been able to support this work both through grant funding and the contribution of expert staff across the organisation to whom I'd like to express my thanks.

We very much hope that visitors enjoy the opportunity to find out more about those who shaped its history, as it gets set to welcome visitors once more."

"We are delighted that, thanks to National Lottery players, this internationally important regimental and social history has been conserved and opened up for all to experience."

The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum is a charity and relies almost entirely on donations.

The Scottish Tartans Museum and Heritage Center, Inc.

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Come out to Historic Rural Hill on Labor Day weekend (September 4th - 5th, 2021) for The Battle of Charlotte!

This weekend will mark the 241st Anniversary of this pivotal time in not only the history of The American Revolution, but, also, Charlotte Mecklenburg County itself.

Through multiple interpretive demonstrations such as kids drill, weapons demonstrations, artillery demonstrations, cooking, music, camp life and more the 18th century will literally come to life.

Hear about the African American experience with The Slave Dwelling Project.

Experience the sites, sounds, and smells of the 18th century.

Along with the day's events, there will be a Ceilidh Saturday night.

For more information on what went on during The Battle of Charlotte...come out on Labor Day weekend!!!

Crown Forces: Major General Lord Charles Cornwallis, Colonel Banastre Tarleton, Major George Hanger.

Patriot Forces: Captain William Lee Davie, and Major Joseph, Graham, Sr.

"Serving periodically from 1778 to 1781 as a volunteer, Graham, aged eighteen to twenty-one years, fought in fifteen minor engagements in North Carolina and South Carolina, while rising in rank from private to major.

His most memorable service was commanding the rearguard action against Tarleton's cavalry which enabled Captain William R. Davie to evade Cornwallis's troops after the British capture of Charlotte.

Wounded nine times, six by saber and three by lead, the bleeding and exhausted Graham was left on the field for dead; however, he survived and, after two months' recuperation, became major of a company of dragoons that engaged Tories and British regulars in the Cape Fear region.

Graham demonstrated capacity as a soldier and impressed those who knew him with his youthful determination and devotion to duty."

In addition, the Amazing Maize Maze will be open! (Additional fee applies, must purchase tickets to the Battle of Charlotte to participate in the Maze for this weekend!)

The Battle of Charlotte is a rain or shine event. No refunds will be allowed for inclement weather.

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.



"O'n D'thainig thu."

Remember the men from whom you have come.

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| * Macnelly | * Neal | * MacGugan | |
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| * Macneally | * Neale | * MacGuigan | |
| * Mcneil | * Neill | * Macguigan | |
| * McNeil | * Niel | * McGougan | |



 <p>STONE MOUNTAIN SUTHERLAND</p> <p>Potluck Luncheon</p>	<p>Clan Sutherland will be enjoying a Potluck Luncheon Saturday, October 16, about 11:30 AM at the Stone Mtn. Highland Games. If you would like to participate, contact Southeast Regional Commissioner, Bill Sutherland at <mrbill4x4@gmail.com></p>
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Clan MacLellan plans AGM at 2021 Stone Mountain Highland Games



The details are coming together for the 2021 Clan MacLellan AGM

We have a block of rooms reserved at the brand new Holiday Inn Express Atlanta & Suites Atlanta – Tucker Northlake 2060 Crescent Center Blvd / Tucker Georgia 30084

Call (770) 496-1070 and ask for the Clan MacLellan block of rooms. Reservation must be made before September 24, 2021 to receive our special rate of \$108.00 per night.

The Clan MacLellan Board Meeting will be on October 15 at 1pm EST at the hotel.

Clan Leaders, please RSVP if you are

attending in person or by Zoom.
<ksk1814@outlook.com>

Our Annual General Meeting will be that evening at Sweet Potato Cafe. Please RSVP how many are coming to the AGM dinner so they will be ready for us.
<ksk1814@outlook.com>

Also let me know if you would like to go to dinner on Saturday and/or Sunday night so we can continue our planning.

Above is a picture from the 2016 AGM.

There are many memories from the Stone Mountain Games - It will be great to see MacLellan's in person again.



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A Non-profit Organization providing student scholarships for highland dance and bagpiping and making charitable donations to the National Trust for Scotland and other non-profit organizations that promote Scottish tradition, history, crafts and culture here in the United States and Scotland

Email us: <shusa457@gmail.com>

Some of the funding Scottish Heritage USA has provided over the years:

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

*National Trust for Scotland sites



Eisenhower Suite, Culzean Castle



The Hill House, Helensburgh

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

MEDIEVAL MUSIC BOOKS - WHAT DID THE MUSIC SOUND LIKE, REALLY?



Six Nations, One Soul - Scottish Notes, J. Logie Baird

The King's Noyse: We enjoy looking at medieval music books in the museum, with their curious square notes, but what did the music on those old parchment pages actually sound like?

Modern computer technology has enabled scientists to model the acoustics in the long-ruined Linlithgow Palace and have recreated a 1512 Easter concert performed for King James IV.

They used Lidar scanning (a rotating laser gun) to measure the building as it now stands. Then, using techniques developed for creating imaginary locales in computer games, added in details gleaned from archaeology to recreate the chapel as James would have found it. They analyzed how these details would have affected the acoustics.

Lastly, they recreated the concert itself using some of those old music books.

A CD is available from Hyperion Records <www.hyperion-records.co.uk>

Your editor was very curious and actually found where you may listen to this

exquisitely beautiful music for free. Visit <<https://apple.com/us/album/music-from-reign-king-james/id570198760?ls=1+app=itunes>>





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<https://electriccanadian.com>



£1 to buy it, £20m to repair it!

Kinloch Castle, on the Isle of Rum, a great buy for the perfect person

www.nzherald.co.nz/travel/prince-charles...

One of Scotland's most striking castles, which is said to be one of Prince Charles' favourites, is seeking new owners.

The crumbling Kinloch Castle, which can be found on the Isle Rum off Scotland's west coast, is currently owned by *NatureScot*, one of the public bodies responsible for the nation's natural heritage.

Dating back to the tail end of the 19th century, the turreted mansion was built by eccentric Lancastrian multimillionaire Sir George Bullough between 1897 and 1900 for what would equate to around £15 million in today's money.

Incredibly, the dilapidated 19th-century island retreat was previously valued at just £1 - but is said to require nearly £20m worth of repairs.

The 120-year-old castle, which was one of the first private residences in Scotland to have electricity and an internal telephone system, used to be a favourite spot for Sir George to host parties, deer stalking, game shooting and fishing.

It was built by workers from the Isle of Eigg using red stone ferried in from Annan on the mainland.

The grand location still houses the world's last functioning orchestration, a complicated instrument that once belonged to Queen Victoria and emulates a 40-piece orchestra.

This is also included in the items needing repair as it reportedly needs a £50k revamp.

Other items include a Japanese sculptured bronze of a monkey-eating eagle, which is about 8 feet high which Sir George is said to have outbid the Emperor of Japan for, while stories surrounding the castle include the fact that it once housed hummingbirds, turtles

and alligators (which were later shot supposedly trying to escape) in its custom-built hothouses.

The rooms are laid out as they would have been in its heyday - with visitors greeted by incredible sculptures, artworks and a Steinway grand piano.

There are four-poster beds and a sprung-floor ballroom with gold-damask walls.

The castle on the Inner Hebridean island is said to be a favourite of the Prince of Wales, who backed past plans to save it.

NatureScot is now looking for a private individual, charity, foundation or private company to come forward with proposals for taking over the impressive home.

They describe it as a rare chance to "create a

long-lasting legacy" with the Category A landmark as well as supporting the local island community.

Referring to the search for a new owner, a spokesperson for *NatureScot*, said: "Our priority is to protect and conserve Scotland's nature, so that is where we have to focus our resources.

"But we feel the castle will support the community with the right owner, and we have been working towards that goal over the past number of years.

"Kinloch Castle is not currently on the open market for sale. We are working to identify a beneficial owner for the castle and grounds."

"Any future owner will need to contribute towards three key objectives: securing the conservation and preservation of the castle; contributing to the sustainability of the Rum community; and enhancing nature on Rum, including promoting its enjoyment, and minimising the castle's impact on the natural environment."



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

Al McGalliard,
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<alsrx95@gmail.com>



Reopening Scotland

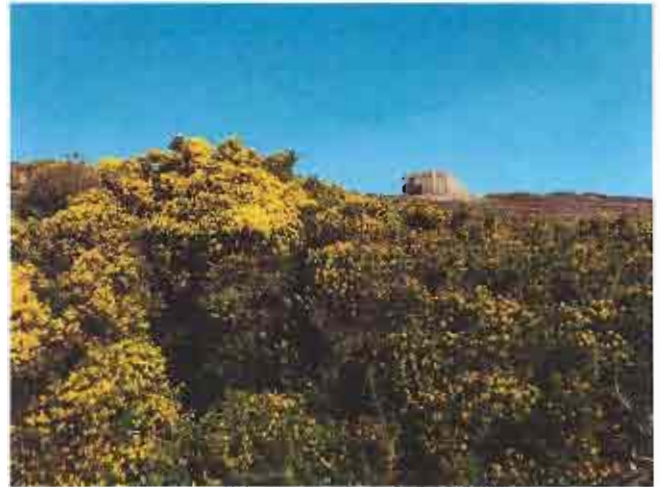
As Scotland's very draconian Covid lockdown restrictions began to ease, in April, our government's guidance changed from "stay at home" to "stay local." Thus, rather than restricting my walks to the local windfarm (which is not a bad place at all, with lots of paths and very peaceful and scenic), I was able to expand my walks to some broader explorations, across our home county of Caithness. Specifically, I went looking for the remains of some World War 2 installations.

During WW2, the British Navy was based on the body of water which is at the center of the Orkney Islands, and is known as Scapa Flow. You may recall from previous newsletters, that we can see the Orkney Islands, from our kitchen window. Between us and the islands, you can see the most northerly promontory of Great Britain, Dunnet Head.



I should add that those of you who think that John O'Groats is the most northerly point in mainland Scotland, have been misled. Dunnet Head is actually farther north, but it is mostly barren and has no PR department. So, John O'Groats gets all the press. At any rate, the head is only about a half hour drive from home, so it was an easy place to expand my walks once lockdown eased.

Because of its location, Dunnet was the home for two British military bases during the war. At the top of Burifa Hill was an impressive radio communications center. From the only road up the peninsula, you do not see any trace of this, so I decided to go looking to see what I could find hidden in the golden gorse.



What I found at the top of the hill blew my mind: the remains of over 50 structures. This base was one of several that were used to assist with radio communication and navigational signals for the planes of Bomber Command as they flew missions to the European mainland. It housed hundreds of personnel from the Royal Air Force (RAF) and Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF). As I climbed the hill, I passed the bare foundations where Nissen huts once stood. The half-cylindrical metal tubes that formed what served as walls and roof are long gone. But the concrete floors can still be found spread all around the lower parts of the hill. Not much of interest here, except for two aspects: 1.) the latrines, where broken white porcelain from the toilets and holes leading down to the cesspits can still be seen.

Dr. Pete Hylton, Ed.D.

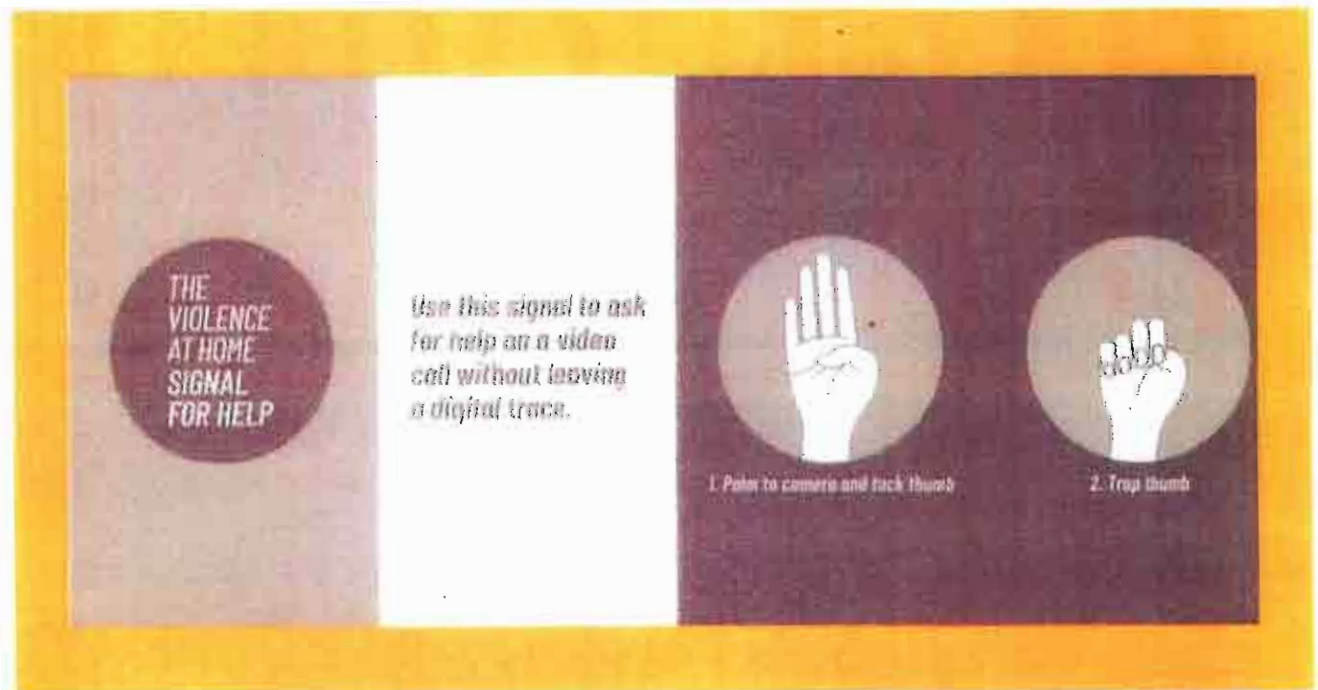
**Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy
Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology
Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland
Fulbright Scholar**



Continued on page 25



This has become known as a signal for “help me” in any situation.



**Please alert your children
and teach them to do this.
Please alert everyone.**

Visit this YouTube video at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ozb1ty5KivE>

With many thanks to Steve Kelley.



And 2.) The brick structures that served to hold the fires that generated the heat to keep the structures warm.



As I continued up the hill, I found a more intact structure. It was roofless, but the three-brick-thick walls had survived the best attempts of time, wind and vandals to knock them down.



And outside of the building were 4 unusually shaped concrete pyramids, which upon closer inspection, contained the remains of steel; beams cast into the concrete.



Continued on page 27

Clan Home Society, International

The Clan Home Society,
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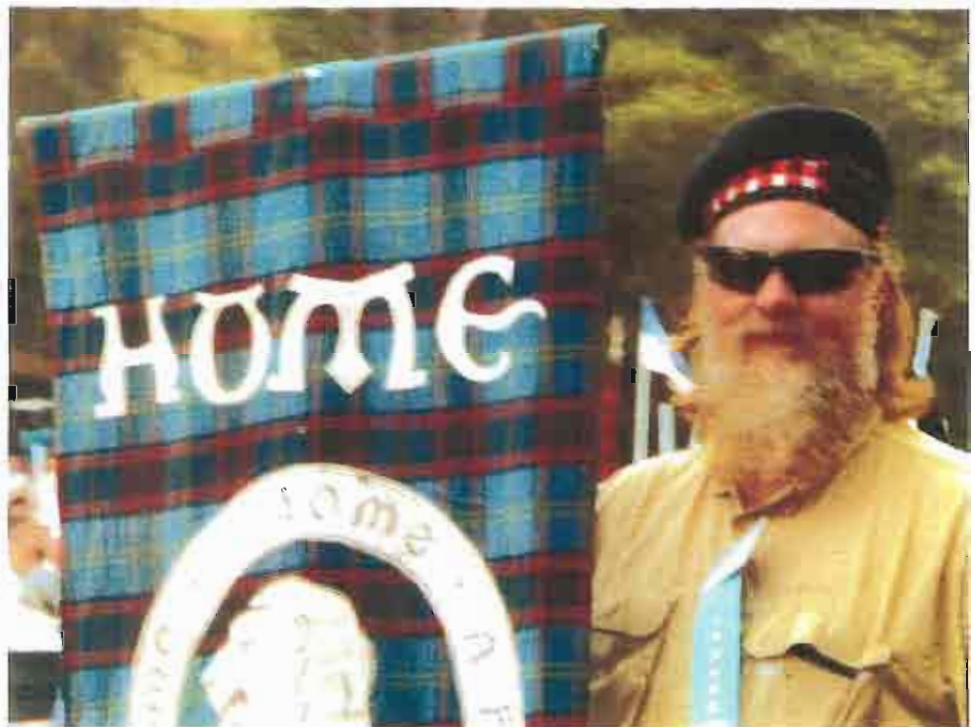


Rodney Green, president

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<lawnmower391@gmail.com>





That made it clear that these pads had been the base of a steel-truss radio tower, and the building must have housed the operational equipment for that tower. As I walked the circumference of the hill, I found four of these building and tower pairs. So, back in those days, four tall radio towers must have stabbed their way into the northern sky.

There was one additional building that had me briefly confused. It was also three bricks thick, but had provisions for tables inside. At first, I thought it might have been the commissary where meals were served. But with a bit of research, I uncovered the fact that it was more likely what was referred to as the "engine room" where motor-generator sets were attached to metal tables attached to the top of the concrete bases. This is where the power to run the station would have come from.



It was odd to imagine that so many people had once lived here, in the midst of this barren peninsula. They must have thought that they had been sent to a vast northern wasteland at the end of the earth. Sometimes it feels that way here. But it is beautiful when you come to know it.



I did find a few WW2 souvenirs amongst the rubble.



After Burifa Hill, I headed off to the tip of Dunnet Head where another base existed during the war. This one was a radar and observation station tasked with trying to detect German U-Boats trying to sneak through the gaps in the Orkney Islands to reach Scapa Flow where they could have caused unimaginable damage to the British Fleet.

Things at this site are a bit more intact, as the buildings that remain are all still under-roof, and several are obviously used for storage by the local inhabitants.



Continued on page 29

Clan Davidson Society USA



Davidson Clansmen dominate the Parade of Tartans at the International Gathering of Clan Davidson sponsored by the Clan Davidson Society USA. The event was held June, 2011, in conjunction with the Kansas City Highland Games.

Is your name listed here? If so, then you may be interested in membership in the **Clan Davidson Society USA!**

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

The Clan Davidson Society USA is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit corporation recognized by the **US IRS** as a 501 c(3) Educational and Charitable organization. We are dedicated to the preservation of our rich Scottish and Clan Heritage. CDA-USA publishes an award-winning, electronic, full color newsmagazine of 40-60 pages twice a year, packed with informative articles and photos of interest both to Davidson Clansmen as well as anyone interested in the history and culture of Scotland.

The Society's On-Staff Genealogist is the Founder of the Davidson/Davison DNA Project and is available at no charge to assist the membership with their own genealogical excavations.

For more information, check out our website at [www.elandavidsonusa.com] or contact the Society's Membership Registrar at [sennachie@earthlink.net].



Dr. Pete Hylton, *continued from page 27*

One Structure that is not in use by locals is the underground bunker that would have been used in the event of a German bomb attack.



All around the Caithness coastline, you stumble upon WW2 observation posts of various shapes and sizes as during that period watchers were posted to keep an eye open for German ships or airplanes trying to reach British shores.



There were also defensive installations built to defend against invasions of the Caithness coast. There were large concrete blocks installed to make it difficult for enemy boats to come ashore.



Here is an overview of the entire beach and the yellow arrow points to a pillbox built for gunners to cover the beach with defensive fire in the event of an enemy landing. The next few pictures show it from various views.

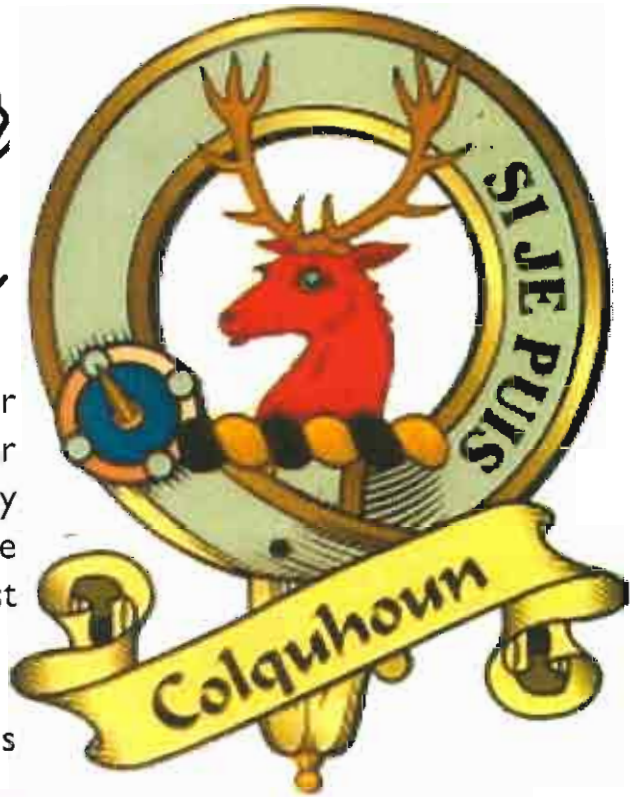


Including a photo with a look inside. It would appear that a few of the locals have used it for some impromptu beer parties.

Continued on page 31

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.



<enquiries@clancolquhoun.com>



CLAN COLQUHOUN

INTERNATIONAL
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Ceud Mile Failte! 100,000 Welcomes!



There were also three air bases in Caithness. The largest of them was just north of the town of Wick and today has been converted into the island's most northern commercial airport. However, there are still a few signs of its military beginnings. Along the boundary, the munitions storage bunker and the remains of some Nissen huts can still be seen.



The second site was east of the village of Reay and after the war it became the site of the Dounreay nuclear power plant, which in the fifties and sixties was one of the most advanced nuclear facilities in the free world. Some of the runways and access roads are still in use, even as the site is being decommissioned now.

The third site, east of Castletown, is now in use as a farm, with crumbled runways in the fields, and a few of its structures slowly falling down.



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Dr. Pete Hylton, *continued from page 31*

Early in the war, Wick fell victim to some of the first German bombs to be dropped on Britain. These bombs demolished a number of buildings along Bank Street. Eighteen people were killed, mostly children who were playing along the street. Because it was early in the war, warning systems for incoming bombers were not in place, so the town was taken by surprise. Today, Memorial Garden, on Bank Street, commemorates this event.



In order to try to protect the operations at Wick Airport, a fake airport was constructed on a hill south of the village of Sarclet. It included buildings, and fake runways, fake airplanes and vehicles, and real personnel, in order to make it appear to be an operational base. While the real base at Wick would be under blackout conditions at night, the Sarclet site would keep enough lights on to draw the attention of incoming enemy aircraft in an attempt to draw the bombs away from the real facility at Wick.



As you travel across the county, periodically you can see structures remaining from the war. Usually, they are just standing in the middle of fields.



But occasionally, they have been converted for use as part of farms, like this next photo shows.

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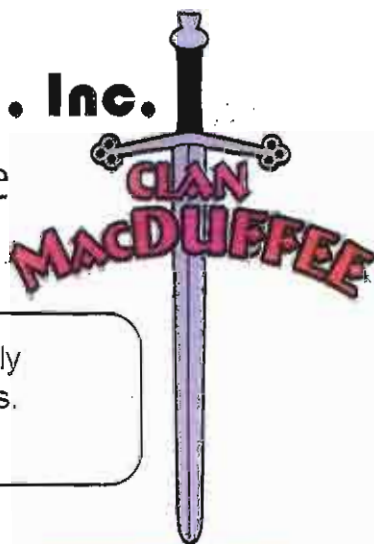
MacDuffee Clan Society of America, Inc.

of Clan Macfie



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Annual General Meeting held each year in July
at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.
You are always welcome to attend.



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tpmijm@aol.com

Treasurer: David M. McDuffie

dnmcduffie@gmail.com

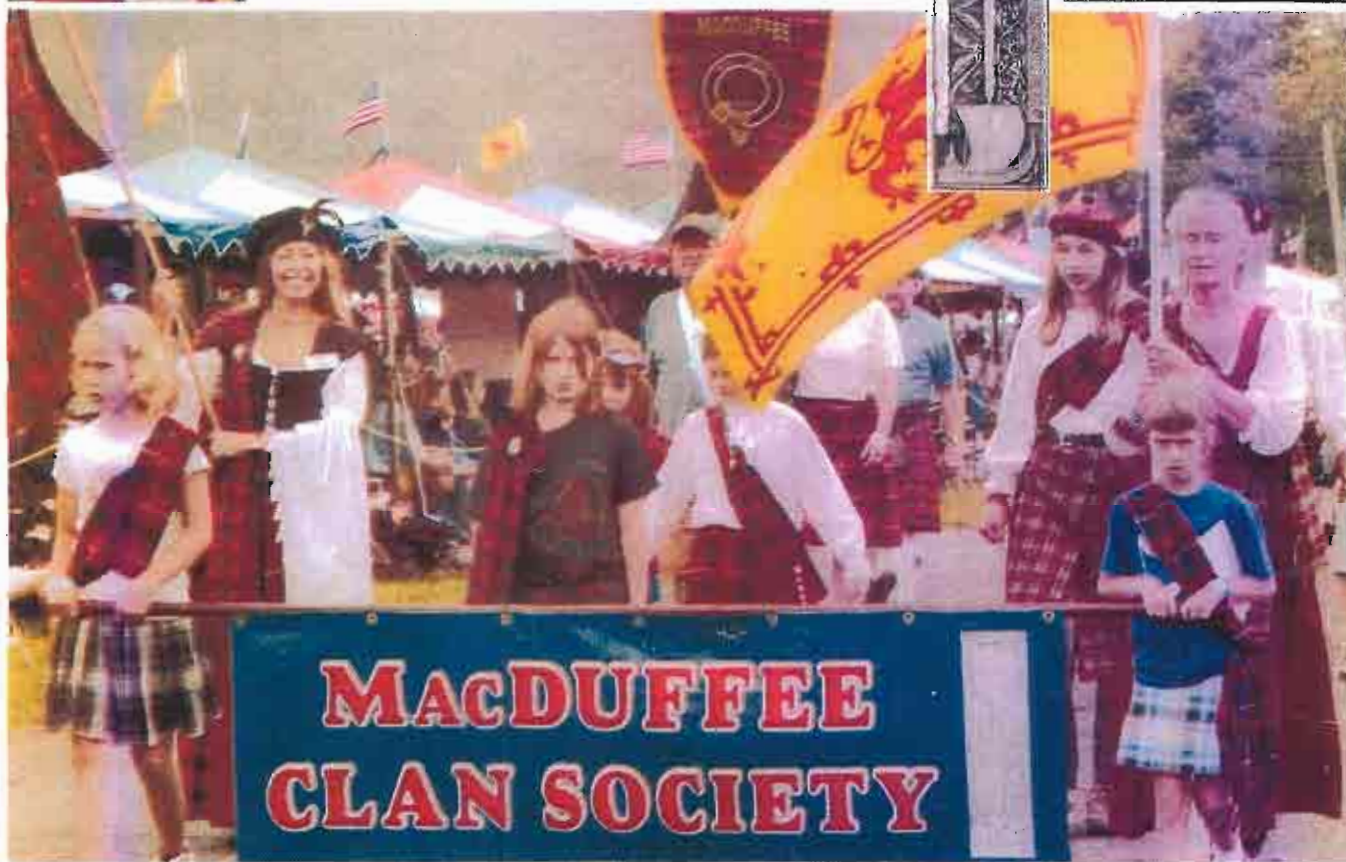
Genealogist: Richard Ledyard

865-671-2555

rledyard@tds.net



MacDuffee
Clan Society
of America





One of the more interesting WW2 stories that I have heard is the "Secret Army" that existed across the far north. One must understand that the country truly believed that the Germans would inevitably invade Britain. And the far north was one of the most likely sites for such an invasion, because of its sparse population.

So, in preparation for fighting a guerilla war against the invaders of an occupied Britain, men who were not subject to going into the armed forces, were formed into small, secret groups. These men, mostly WW1 veterans, did not even know who the members of other neighboring groups were. Each small team had access to a secret bunker in a hidden location, in which were stored the essential weapons needed to conduct such activities.

While I have yet to actually locate one of these bunkers in Caithness, I believe that I found one on one of my hikes a bit further afield. Of course, the end with the door would have been obscured by brush.



Apparently a surviving member of the one of the small teams once told of practicing how to attack a tank using a clapped out Austin 7 sports car to simulate the tank.

A number of the local museums and heritage centers have displays of World War 2 artifacts such as gas masks, weapons, instruments, and other things a soldier might carry.



In previous newsletters, I have included photos of the World War memorials in various villages throughout the Highlands. Well, it wasn't just towns and villages. The two shown here are memorials erected on two of the estates which existed here a hundred years ago in memory of those who lived on the estate and died in battles of either WW1 or WW2.



Continued on page 37



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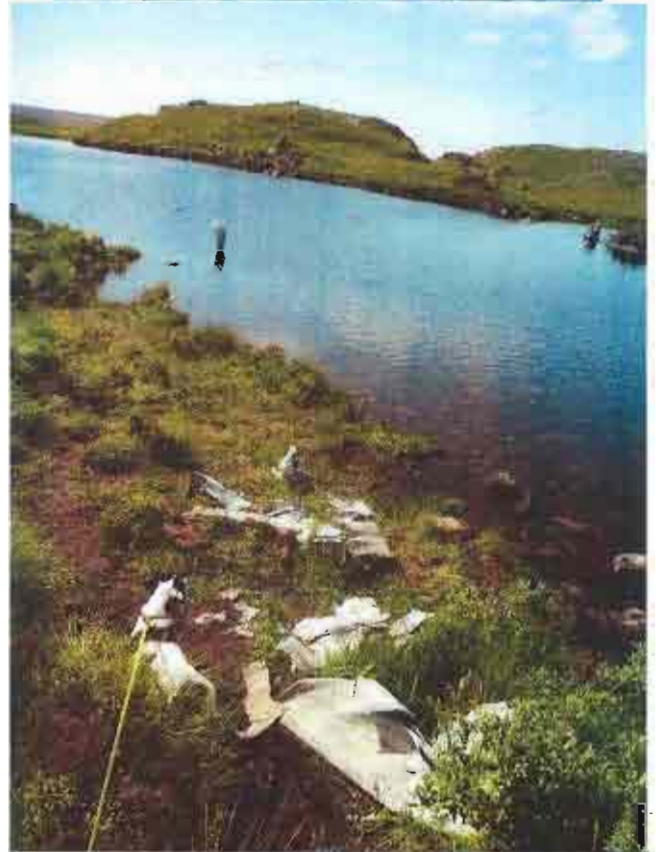
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However, the most unique memorial I have ever seen lies far up in the hills of the far north, at a beautifully scenic place called the Fairy Lochs. In June 1945, a United States' B24H Liberator aircraft took off from Prestwick in southern Scotland headed for a refueling stop in Iceland before returning to America. Unfortunately, in heavy cloud cover, the plane flew too low and crashed into a Scottish mountain. The 15 aboard, all between 20 and 26 years of age, were killed instantly and the remains of the plane fell all about the nearest of the Fairy Lochs.

The remains have been left there since 1945. The site is classified a war grave, and thus is protected. A memorial plaque is now mounted on the stone face and one of the propeller blades has been mounted vertically in a concrete pedestal in the loch. Numerous other components of the aircraft are scattered about, and have been left in place by any visitors like myself. It is a most poignant reminder of just a few of the men who gave all in World War 2. These recent explorations have given me renewed respect for the men and women who served in various armed forces of World War 2. I hope it has done the same for you.



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



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

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

For information & how to join, see our website clanarthur.website/

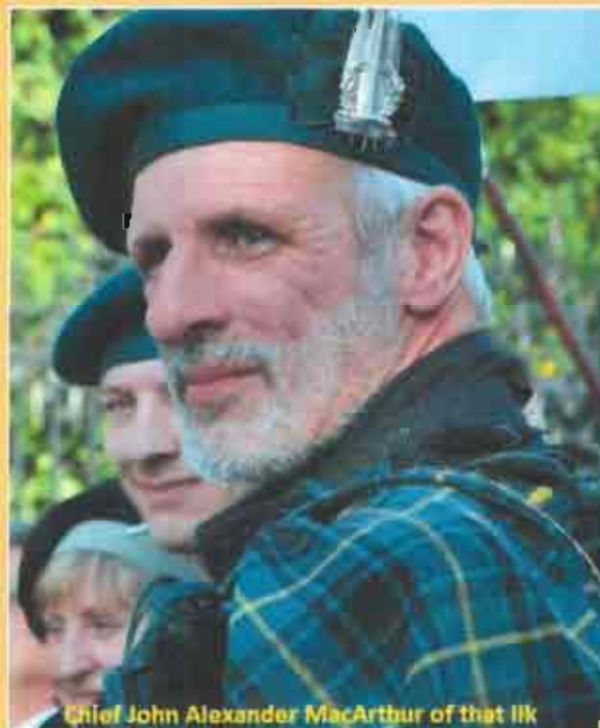
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Chief John Alexander MacArthur of that Ilk