



Volume 1, Number 3

Section Two

August 2007

MacLaren Honoured Clan, Clan of Excellence... at GMHG 2007

Over 100 Clan MacLaren members marched proudly in the 2007 Parade of Tartans at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games this July. Almost 200 Clan members attended the event - almost 1/3 of the total membership.



Just some of the 100 Clan MacLaren members marching at the 2007 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games held the weekend after the Fourth of July near Linville, NC.

Remember, you can print your own copy of *Beth's Newfangled Family Tree*!

Queries! Queries! Queries! Queries!

ROBERT HENDERSON, born ca 1775 in South Carolina, md **JUDITH HOGAN**, born ca 1786 Tennessee: son Daniel born ca 1810 in Illinois. Children born after Daniel born Bienville or Claiborne Parish, Louisiana. Many of their children migrated from Louisiana to Texas. Daniel is my 3rd great grandfather. I am looking for any information on Robert and Judith's family. **Cheryl Parrish Shaw**

WILLIAM ROBERT HENDERSON, b. Feb 1849 in Fayette Co. OH. m. **Rachel Clark** and had 8 children. d. 1942 in Rio Blanco Co. CO. Any information on his family and parents please contact me and I will share what I have. Thanks, **Dottie Henderson**.

I have been working on my geneology for over two years, trying to get into the DAR. My "missing link" is **HILLSBOROUGH OBADIAH HENDERSON**, son of **COL. BENNETT HENDERSON**, Patriot. **HO** was born in Albemarle Co., Va. circa 1781 and died in South Carolina, Sept. 3, 1832. He married **SALLY LEWIS** circa 1804. The problem is **HO** did not like his first name, according to family and went by **OBADIAH** all his adult life. I have no DOCUMENTS to prove **HILLSBOROUGH** and **OBADIAH** are one in the same. I understand there is a family bible that proves this, but no one knows who has it. **Loueen**

Looking for parents of **JOSEPH BARTON HENDERSON**, b 22 Dec 1811, supposedly in New Jersey [to a father who was also born there and a mother from New York], all records I have for him place him mostly in Huntingdon Co, PA, d 28 Dec 1882. He was a collier by trade, but owned a farm in near Cornpropst Mill, Barree Twp. He married ca 1834 **NANCY (AKA AGNES) CROWNOVER**, b ca 1814, d 9 Feb 1889 in West Twp, Huntingdon Co, PA. Their children were **ANNA MARIE**, **FLETCHER MONROE**, **EURETTA M.**, **JOSEPH RITNER [MY LINE]**, **PORTER TARING**, **ELIPHAS BIGELOW**, **FLORENCE**, **FRANKLIN PEARCE**, AND **WILLIAM COVENHOVEN**. I have done research on the children as well, looking for a genealogist among their descendants. Struck gold in **EURETTA'S** family, and the **JOSEPH RITNER** line—many of whom still live in Huntingdon—, but cannot find even **JB** and **NANCY'S** graves.

My cousin and I have hit a dead end with our paternal great grandfather, **OLIVER WENDELL HENDERSON**. He came through or was born in Dahlonga, Georgia about 1833, but due to the civil war records are hard to come by. He may have had relatives in South Carolina. He married **MARY ELLA COFFIN** and had a son late in life, **HAROLD EUGENE HENDERSON**, my grandfather, who was born in Yankee Jim's, California in 1895. Any info on this branch of the clan is appreciated.

Looking for **THOMAS HENDERSON** married **CHRISTIANA CURRIER** in 1818 according to records in Blount County, Tennessee. They had six children: **MARY JANE**, **NANCY ELENOR**, **ELIZABETH ANN**, **SAMUEL ANDERSON**, **WILLIAM HENRY**, AND **JOHN A. JAMES**. **E. HENDERSON G E N E A L O G I S T**
Clan Henderson Society

If you would like to pursue any of the queries here - please visit
The Clan Henderson website:
<http://www.clanhendersonusa.org/forum/>



Free Queries!

Just send your queries to: BNFT, c/o Beth Gay at
bethscribble@aol.com

Seaside Highland Games



**October 12th,
13th & 14th, 2007**

**At Seaside Park in
Ventura, California**

GAMES EVENTS:

Scottish Heavy Athletics, Pipe Band Competition, Solo Piping Competition, Highland & Irish Step Dancing, Scottish Country Dancing, Gathering of the Clans, Vendors, Children's Glen, British Classic Cars, Genealogy, Drummond Ranch Dogs, Arts and Crafts...And Haggis!

ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS:

**WHISKY TASTING AND
"A SCOTTISH EVENING"
AND FASHION SHOW**

Friday Evening, Oct. 12th at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel

Classes:

Whisky Seminar Ray Pearson	Genealogy Beth Gay
Speaking Gaelic	

EVENT SCHEDULE

Friday	5:00pm	Whisky Tasting
	6:30pm	"A Scottish Evening"
Saturday	9:00am	Gates Open
	Noon	Grand Parade & Opening Ceremonies
	8:00pm	Alasdair Fraser and Alex Beaton
Sunday	9:30am	Kirkin' o' the Tartans
	4:30pm	Closing Ceremonies

Featured Entertainers Include:

Alex Beaton • Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas • The Wicked Tinkers
Celtic Spring • Highland Way • Tempest
Bydand Forever - The Gordon Highlanders 1882-85 • Highlander Warriors

Stay at one of these fine hotels:

Host Hotel Reservations:

The Pierpont Inn (805) 643-6144
Crown Plaza (805) 648-2100
Country Inn & Suites (805) 653-1434
Four Points Sheraton (805) 658-1212
Ventura Beach Marriott (805) 643-6000

AMTRAK STOPS AT OUR FRONT GATE

Visit www.seaside-games.com

For the latest entertainment schedule and more event information

CONTACT: John & Nellie at (818) 886-4968,
e-mail: SeasideChief@aol.com

Seaside Highland Games thanks these Sponsors & Supporters



TICKETS

Adult:
1 Day Gate Price \$14
2 Day Gate Price \$20
Advance: 1 Day, \$12 - 2 Day \$18
Senior (62+) & Military:
1 Day Gate Price \$12
2 Day Gate Price \$18
Advance: 1 Day, \$10 - 2 Day \$15
Children:
1 Day Gate Price \$3
Children 5 & under Free

Whisky Tasting: \$25
Scottish Evening: \$30

Sponsor Packages
Available

**Sorry,
NO PET DOGS
Allowed In
Seaside Park**



Unicorn Limited Phone: 334-501-0202

P. O. Box 125 Fax: 334-501-0404

Loachapoka, AL 36865 e-mail: mcleod@scotpress.com

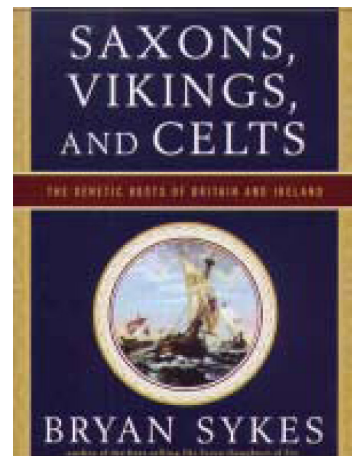
Visa/MasterCard/AmEx/Discover/Paypal welcomed Visit our website: www.scotpress.com

RECENT BOOK ARRIVALS, 2007

The number of Scottish titles available here in the States shrinks daily; we have lost another two importers and distributors — Irish Books and Media and Trafalgar Square Books — in the past month. And we were just notified this week that the venerable Clan Map is now out of print, with no plans by the publisher for reprinting. So be prepared for a major reduction in the number of titles we can offer at the Games this summer. But there are some interesting new items available:

219-1. Saxons, Vikings and Celts: The Genetic Roots of Britain and Ireland. By Bryan Sykes. 308pp. hb. For many centuries, historians of Scotland (and the rest of the British Isles) have relied upon legends, local accounts, family traditions and myths to define families and to identify such areas as the “Highlands” or the “Lowlands”. One of the most obvious of all such myths was that of the Anglo-Saxon origin of the Scots-rish. Only in the past few years has an alternative approach to our origins even been possible, and the analysis which DNA offers already has revolutionized the way we think about who we are and where we came from. Bryan Sykes is a professor of Human Genetics at Oxford University in England, the author of *The Seven Daughters of Eve* and *Adam’s Curse*, and now, of this new study which takes us on an historical journey around the family tree of the British Isles. Using over 10,000 volunteers from throughout Great Britain, Ireland and the North America, Prof. Sykes traced the true genetic makeup of those who were from Britain and then began the difficult task of tracking particular genetic pools. In some cases, this has meant seeking genetic signposts which characterize those in a given region or carrying a particular name. I don’t pretend that this is a simple or an easily read book. Sykes not only examines the Celtic base but also has to determine to what extent the Romans in England altered that base. How many Saxon invaders were there and what difference did they make? Were Celtic

people pushed back to Wales and Cornwall or did they remain as the major population? What was the impact of the Vikings? We like to pretend that they only sacked and burned, but they seemingly also brought very definite genetic signposts into the population in many more areas than previously



thought and to a much greater extent than supposed. In other words, you have to be able to move through Britain in historical terms and waves and you have to have an open mind to new ideas and possibilities. In some cases, DNA supports family legends. In other cases, it explodes those legends. This is a fairly expensive book at \$26.95 and it is one which you will need to read carefully and perhaps twice to understand, but it is worth the effort.

219-2. Robert Bruce: Our Most Valiant Prince, King and Lord. By Colm McNamee. 332pp. pb.

This is the first popular, or readable, biography of Bruce to appear in the last 40 years, and it draws upon McNamee’s earlier book, *The Wars of the Bruces*. Writing a readable biography of a medieval Scottish king is no easy task, and this very well researched history may not e what you want for an easy afternoon on the porch swing or at the beach. But there is more than

Continued on page 5

enough drama, suspense, and action to keep the reader going, and even if we know what “happens” in the end, we all can profit from understanding better the way in which Bruce emerged on top after decades of fighting the English, great Scottish families like the Balliols and the Comyns, and the Church. Bruce was by no means the obvious winner, and his Anglo-Norman origin as a feudal landed magnate brought him into conflict with numerous groups within Scotland. Balliol held down the west country, and the English under King Edward I enjoyed an enormous superiority in wealth, population, feudal warriors, weaponry, and experience. And Bruce did make mistakes: the killing of Comyn simply is the most obvious. But it was his determination, his obvious charisma, his military ability, and his willingness to learn from his enemies that distinguished him from such men as John Balliol. This is a book to be read, thought about, reread and consulted. And it does incorporate the latest research available. \$16.95

219-3. Castles and Tower Houses of the Scottish Clans 1450-1650. By Stuart Reid; illustrated by

64pp. pb. This is a new publication from Osprey in their “Fortress” series, and is of particular interest to those studying the Border region with England and the eastern portion of Scotland up to and including Aberdeenshire. Over the centuries, there have been many

different types of fortification in this part of Scotland, but this publication really concentrates mainly upon the later private fortified houses or castles of major families. These Tower Houses were not built to defend an important political, military or economic route or site, but rather were constructed to provide safety for an extended and important family on a daily or — more likely — nightly basis. The period of the 15th-17th century

was one of enormous religious and political upheaval, and families could never be certain that enemies would not attack, nor was anyone safe from the usual challenges of an unsettled age. In this study, the authors explain how these houses were built, what they sought to accomplish, and how they worked. Among the Tower Houses examined here are: Balvenie, Blackness, Bothwell, Braemar, Caerlaverock, Fraser, Corgarff, Craigevar, Craigmillar, Crathes, Crichton, Dirleton and Doune Castles. Good color illustrations, drawings of Tower Houses, etc. \$16.95

219-4. The Secrets of Rosslyn. By Roddy Martine. 200pp. pb. The secrets of Rosslyn Chapel long have fascinated those who seek hidden forces at work in the world in which we live. Built in the middle of the 15th century and located only 7 miles from the center of Edinburgh, Rosslyn Castle and its Chapel — built by the Sinclair family and linked for centuries to the Knights Templar and the Holy Grail — contains clues, suggestions, and design ideas which rarely have been studied or understood. Roddy Martine, one of Scotland’s most prolific writers, here takes on this puzzle and examines the family of St. Clair, the legacy of St. Margaret, the creation of the chapel, the origins of Freemasonry, the gypsies of Roslin Glen, the various myths and ideas identified with the chapel, and the symbols and other clues presented by the chapel itself. Obviously, this is a question or problem for which there is no easy or quick explanation or solution, and those who are believers are likely to remain so no matter what is written. But Martine does give a solid and interesting “read” about the chapel and its mysteries. If you wish a good assessment of the mysteries of Rosslyn, this will get you far along

Continued on page 6

Unicorn Limited, Inc.

established 1979



Visit our website

www.scotpress.com

Log on to the website and click on "My Account" to add your name to our email notification list for information on new items. Be sure to add us to your email address book!

books of Scottish and Scottish-American interest

Scottish clan and family history

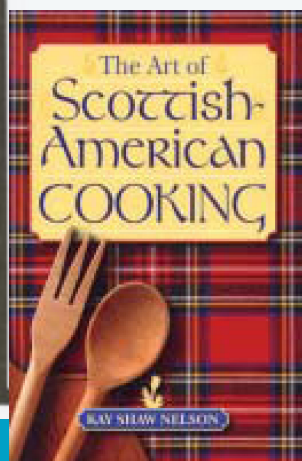
pre-1956 bapine music

vocal and instrumental music & music history books

classic Scottish books on CD-ROM

lectures & stories on audio CD

Scottish-theme Christmas ornaments



W. R. & Vicki B. McLeod

P. O. Box 125

Loachapoka, AL 36865

Phone: 334.501.0202 Fax: 334.501.0404

e-mail: mcleod@scotpress.com

the way. \$19.95

219-5. The Art of Scottish-American Cooking.

By Kay Shaw Nelson. 298pp. hb. Many of you know Kay Shaw Nelson from her cooking column

in *The Scottish Banner* or from her more than 19 cookbooks. Here she tackles the complex question of which recipes or foods which we enjoy here in the US owe their origin or inspiration to their

Continued on page 7

The Spirit of the Bagpipe

Dame Eva LaMar, KTJ

Bagpipes have been an integral part of the heritage and a constant representation of the Celtic Spirit in all known recorded history.

When the average person hears the term, “bagpipe”, they instantly picture kilted men in the Highlands of Scotland. However, the history and current use of the term bagpipe is far more complex than that standard image.

The riveting sounds of the pipes have been heard by the ancient Babylonians, the first Israelites, the Romans, and the Highlanders called to battle.

Today, the bagpipes are heard in the Highland Regiment and at competitions at Highland Games throughout the world.

The pipes are also now incorporated in many modern Celtic bands reaching wide audiences through events such as River Dance and Celtic music concerts. Bagpipes have a long rich history pre-dating even the Celts.



The earliest recorded illustration of using the bagpipe is found on an Eyuk slab of rock dating before the writings of Genesis. The pipes are also mentioned in Genesis.

They are thought by historians to be used by the Babylonians King Nebuchadnezzar's Band. However, this early form of the bagpipes did not have the actual bag. This development would not come for several thousand years.

The Celts according to a historical theory are one of

the lost tribes of Israel. The fact that bagpipes (an invention of the Celts) were used in the Middle East in areas known to be populated by one of the lost tribes of Israel further supports this theory. The first solid piece of information proving that the bagpipes reached Europe was in the first century A.D.

On a Roman coin Nero is shown blowing on an instrument called the tibia urticularis, which is considered the first true bagpipe as it had a bag to help maintain air pressure while playing. This coin shows

Continued on page 8

Rennie McLeod Reviews, *continued from page 6*

Scottish past. Today, with the Internet, we all have access to recipes from around the world but what we often cannot find on the website of the Food Network is the history behind the recipe. What I particularly appreciate in this book are the many introductions, or histories, which Nelson provides for the recipes. For example, William Claiborne set up a trading post in Chesapeake Bay Virginia in 1631; one of his descendants was the famous cook

and author Craig Claiborne who once described his favorite Scotch eggs as one of the world's most basic foods. Yes, there are recipes, but the most interesting parts of the book to me are the historical introductions and the associations of particular foods with the Americans who cooked, ate and loved them. So, buy the book for the recipes but more important, buy it for its unique American flavor and variations. \$21.00

that the Celts migrated from Israel through North Africa via water to Italy. This piece of information shows the next step in the Celtic migration towards northern Europe.

From Italy the Celts probably went to Spain and then throughout most of Europe including the British Isles.

Historians can make relevant conclusions because there are versions of bagpipes found in Scotland, Ireland, Russia, Poland, Spain, England, France, North Africa, to name but a few.

When the pipes reached the British Isles in the 14th century there were two main deviations in styles of bagpipes. One bagpipe style used a bag under the armpit and air was pumped in to the bag using arm movement. The other style of bagpipe was inflated by the player blowing air into the bag via a mouth piece.

The Irish pumping version of the bagpipe is the most modern version of the armpit instrument.

The Highland pipes are the most modern version of the blowpipe style.

Once these two versions reached the British Isles they became very popular. Historians know that it was initially popular in England because in an early manuscript there was an entry about a man and his instrument which states: "A bagpipe well couth he blown and sewn."

The Celts exposed the native Irish, Scots, and Welsh to this instrument and over time each area developed a version of their own.

Today the bagpipe has evolved into four major types in Great Britain: Irish Elbow Pipes, Great Highland Pipes, Lowland Pipes, and Northumbrian Pipes.

This evolution of the bagpipe reflects the individual spirit of the Celts and the adaptation of the instrument reflects their style of music and culture which was ever-changing and adaptive.

The Scots are well known for their Highland Bagpipes because of the reputation it has created with its unique sounds. Pipes were used in the Highlands to call the warriors under their lord's flag in times of need. They were also used to call commands such as charge, retreat, regroup etc. The bagpipes were

also effective as a psychological weapon that would pump up the Highlanders and instill fear into the hearts of the enemy. The enemy knew the sounds of the pipes would soon be followed by having to face battle-crazed Celts ready to fight to their death. The pipes stirred the blood of the



Pipers at Loch Norman 2007

Celts to go into battle without fear as if hearing the sounds were part of their warrior souls.

One story illustrating this idea dates back to 1793 at Pondicherry when the British were besieging the French and the 72nd Highland Regiment was being heavily bombarded. When a piper stood up and started to play the bombardment waned as the French stood up to listen to the music. In the ensuing battle the British eventually took the fortification.

This lone piper standing up against the storm playing his marching tune helped the British win against all odds. The French could not believe that a man would be willing to stand up and play his pipes as cannon balls were landing all around him.

The pipes also represent the defiant spirit of

Continued on page 9

the Celts. One such instance was at the defense of the Maya Pass during the Peninsula War in 1813 when a piper named Cameron began to signal a charge, but was told to stop by the commanding officer. Soon after Cameron began the charge call again and was once again ordered to stop or face charges. The piper stopped grudgingly and toward the end of the fight the commanding officer decided to order a bayonet charge. However, the officer decided that the 92nd regiment (Cameron's regiment) would not participate because they had sustained too many casualties. Cameron would not accept this decision and took matters into his own hands signal-

spirit of the Celts: Keep fighting to breath's end!

Bagpipes still influence society today. At Highland Games throughout the world, bagpipers and their bands gather to compete showing the musical and marching skills. This reflects an ongoing love for their heritage of music, dance and military skills.

In some popular American bands such as "The Wicked Tinkers" and "Bad Haggis", bagpipes play a central role. Celtic bands such as these have an enthusiastic following of young and old. The music keeps the blood of the Celtic spirit stirring. From the beginning of recorded history to present day there is a continuous evolution of the Celts and their bag-



ing the 92nd regiment to charge ahead of everyone else and won the day. This defiance of Cameron signifies directly the nature of the Celtic spirit: Never surrender and never miss a good fight!

All Highland Regiments had pipe band to maintain their heritage. Pipers and regiments fought all over the world under the British flag and used their bagpipes similar to how they were used in the Highlands. Bagpipers also fulfilled another need of the British Army.

When the pipers' respective regiment sustained casualties, the bandsmen would become stretcher carriers. During the battle for the Heights of Dargai piper Findlater was shot through both ankles and in the field of fire continued to play so that the rest of the battalion would continue to fight and win. In return for this man's courage he was rewarded the Victoria Cross (The British version of the "Medal of Honor"). The courage this man showed after being severely wounded illustrates another element of the

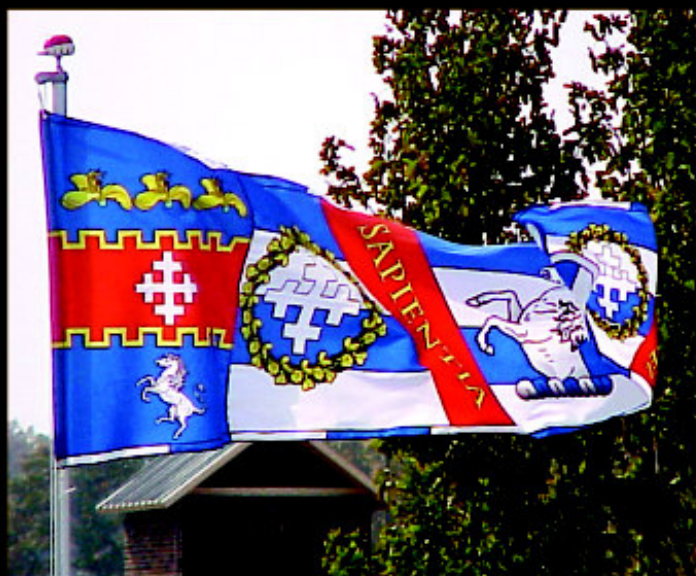
pipes, which they hold dear. An instrument such as this has become so imbedded into its culture that it has become synonymous with the culture itself.

The sounds of the pipes bring up many different emotions depending on what tune is being played and who is in the audience. Whether it is "Amazing Grace", "Scotland the Brave" or "Bonnie Charlie" being played, you know it is purely Celtic and had been heard by many generations past. "Amazing Grace" has brought comfort to many at countless funerals, while "Scotland the Brave" has stirred many soldiers into battle. And Highland dancers would be hard-pressed to continue their steps without the pipes in accompaniment.

The bagpipe and its music are integral in carrying on the Celtic Spirit and reminding the world of the history of this great race. ●

Bibliography

1. Cheape, Hugh. *The Book of the Bagpipe*. Belfast, Northern Ireland: Contemporary Books, 2000.
2. Gibson, John. *Traditional Gaelic Bagpiping*. Quebec: McGill-Queen's University, 1998.
3. Kelly, Ian, PhD, Telephone Interview. 12 – 28 – 06



Standard of the Much Honoured Mark John Harden, 16th Baron of Cowdenknowse
produced by Caberdancer Graphic Design, Inc.

FLYING HERALDRY



GRAPHIC DESIGN

909 West Main Street
Walhalla, South Carolina 29691 USA
Phone: 864-718-8102 Fax: 864-718-8105

www.caberdancer.com sales@caberdancer.com

CABERDANCER GRAPHIC DESIGN, INC.



CALEDONIA FINE ARTS CO.

Caledoniafinearts@mac.com
1-800-474-4449 Ivoryton CT



Custom Deluxe Sporrans

We Are Known For Our High Quality And For Our Specialty Customized Scottish Accoutrements, Deluxe 7 piece Sporrans in carrying case, Victorian Style Long Hair Sporrans, **Custom Sterling Silver** Items And All Highland Accessories. We Offer A Variety Of Specialty Furs For You To Choose: Angora, Bovine & Mink



For Gentlemen:

- Custom Designed Sporrans
- Accessories in Sterling Silver
- Custom Dirks
- Design Your Own Clan Buckles
- Custom Clan Flasks
- 17 Colors of Kilt Hose!
- 17 Colors of Tie-on Garters!
- Custom Hose w/ Hand Knit Tops
- Hose For Extra-Large Calves
- Authentic Regimental Cap Badges
- Supple Leather Belts
- Day Wear Sporrans



For Ladies:

- Sterling Silver Celtic Jewelry
- Ian Grant Brooches & Pins
- Straw Hats With Custom Tartan Bands
- Wedding Consultation
- Celtic Bridal Wear
- Wedding Crackers
- Wedding Horseshoes
- Bridal Jewelry- Earrings, Necklaces, Bracelets
- Gemine Pearl Jewelry



Our 7 Piece Deluxe Sporrans Sets come in a fitted travel case. We offer all US Military Insignia and also Masonic, Clan, Regimental, Fire & Police Badges

We Offer **Scottish Art**, Golf Scenes, James MacIntosh Patrick Prints, Original Oil Paintings



Come See All Of Our Products At The Following Scottish Games: Grandfather Mtn., NC - Stone Mtn., GA - Loon Mtn., NH - Seaside Games, CA - Virginia Games, VA - And More!

Call For Our Full Schedule:

800-474-4449 or email us at **Caledoniafinearts@mac.com**

Beth's Newfangled Family Tree... <http://www.electricscotland.com/bnft>
the first of every month! Read it! Print it! Enjoy it!
Comments? bethscribble@aol.com

A Chat with
Jim Hewitson, author of
SKULL & SALTIRE Stories of
Scottish Piracy – Ancient & Modern

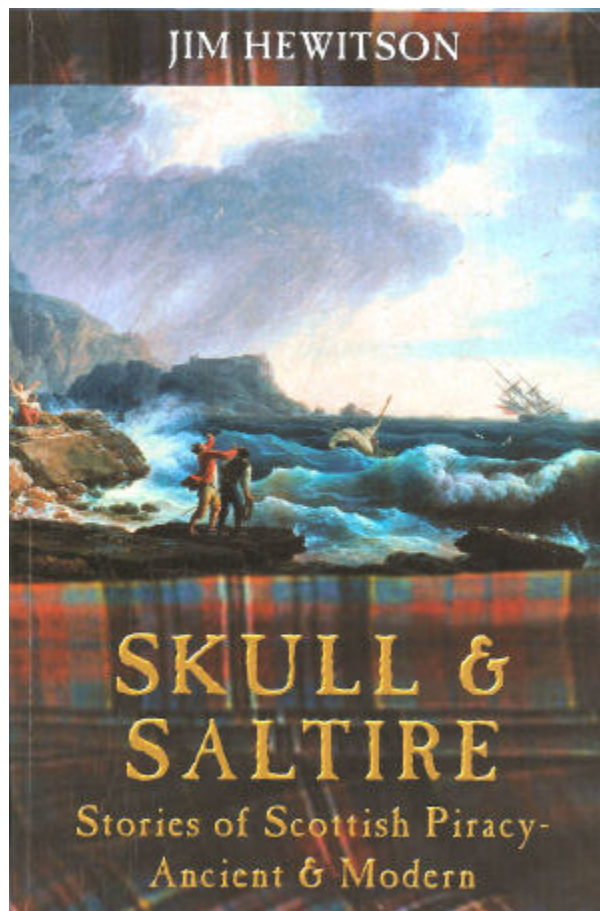
Frank R. Shaw, Atlanta, GA, USA, email: jurascot@earthlink.net

I have known Jim Hewitson for several years and have many of his books, all of which, to me, are worthy of space on any Scot's personal library shelf, public library, or school library. He is an excellent writer, period! His recent book, *Skull & Saltire*, is a fine example of a talented writer. He is the type person with whom you can imagine yourself having a delightful and informative conversation over a wee dram or two at the bed-and-breakfast that Jim and his wife Morag run on Orkney, Papa Westray, (population 70), Scotland.

The conversation I would like to have with Jim would be one of comparing Hugh MacDiarmid with Sir Walter Scott and Robert Burns. MacDiarmid once lived in Orkney and is acclaimed by some, and himself, as the greatest Scottish poet since Burns. I asked author Hewitson how the three would compare, and he replied, "As to comparisons with Burns and Scott...a few peat-fire evenings needed to iron that out!" Since all of us cannot join Jim for several evenings around his peat fire on Papa Westray, we'll do the best we can with this series of questions and answers on his book. By the way, his email comment about "cheap rates for old pals" did not go unnoticed by this Scot!

Q: You obviously work on several books at the same time since you seem to have a couple coming off the press on an annual basis. Tell us, how do you do that so successfully?

A: Yes, maybe a case of quantity winning out over quality, but for the past 10 or 12 years, I've produced at least one book annually. The answer, as it is in all forms of writing, is a mixture of hard graft and research. Much of the research was carried out in the years when I was still a working journalist and I trawl my notes regularly for



sources, quotes and inspiration. The speed at which I am able to produce the books is also a direct result of many years spent trying to catch newspaper deadlines. Whether my work could be termed successful is really for others to judge. My own target has been to get people thinking and talking about Scotland and our remarkable story.

Q: What inspired you to write a book on Scottish pirates?

A: Money might be the pragmatic answer

Continued on page 13

but, in fact, it was during an exchange of ideas with my current publishers, Black and White in Edinburgh, that I offered to research the possibility of a book on Scottish pirates. First reaction from others in the trade was that there simply wasn't enough material but very soon I was able to knock that idea. The most difficult aspect of this book was that the research was done while I was completing my senior honours year at the University of Aberdeen where I gained an MA in Scottish Studies. Study and book research had to go hand in hand. There were occasions during that spell when I didn't know if it was Tuesday or October.

Q: From the time you started gathering material until you sent it to your publisher, how long did you spend writing this book? Briefly tell us the process.

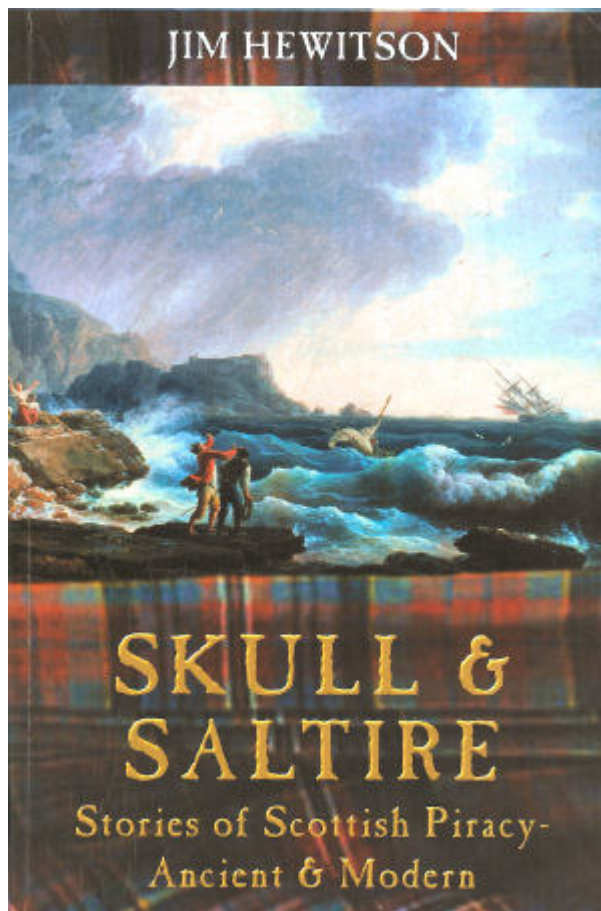
A: From the agreement to proceed until publication of this particular book was a matter of some nine months. It does seem a very short time to produce anything worthwhile but remember, as I indicated before, a lot of the ground work had already been done. The process of producing a book like this is interesting because the focus is constantly shifting as you research. Getting the information into manageable, coherent chapters is always difficult but getting a sound framework upon which to build your information is essential – like a house construction, I suppose. Within this period there are moments of joy as you see the material shaping up and there are others when a concept collapses and you have to start from scratch. Add to all this, the need to research, source and purchase illustrations and photographs and you'll see there's not a lot of time to stand

and stare.

Q: Is "walking the plank" a myth or did it actually happen as often as Hollywood would have us believe? How was discipline maintained on a pirate ship?

A: Ask anyone about the image which is conjured up with the mention of pirates then I'm sure along with eye patches and wooden legs, most folk would put walking the plank up there among the

piratical icons. However, it does seem that the idea that this form of execution, with jeering buccaneers and sharks snapping down below the plank was largely mythical. One maritime history expert suggested, rather unromantically, that the pirates were much more likely simply to throw some expendable hostage overboard than waste time with some elaborate, if deadly, game. Hollywood, in this as in many other historical scenarios, has a lot to answer for. The idea of buried treasure, for example, comes very much into the same cat-



egory. In fact our RL Stevenson is largely responsible for this myth. Pirates generally spent their booty almost as soon as they got their hands on it. Life was precarious and few pirates would have been thinking of retirement. The reality is harsh enough without the need for embellishment. Keel-hauling, dragging a poor victim under the barnacle-encrusted hull of the ship, was a common torture which makes walking the plank look like an easy option.

Q: We have all heard of the slave trade - "the

Continued on page 16

Looking for your family? Here they are! *Contact them now!*



Clan Graham Society

ORGANIZED JULY 1975

The first worldwide Clan Graham organization
If you are a Graham or Sept of Graham,
you are cordially invited to share in a
proud and noble heritage.

For application, write:

CLAN GRAHAM SOCIETY

Norris Graham
1670 Anita Court
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86404
www.clan-graham-society.org



Clan MacNeil Association of America

If you are a MacNeil or of any of the following
"Sept" names, then you have found the site that you are
looking for:

Macneil, MacNeil, Macniel, MacNiel, Macneill,
MacNeill, MacNeillie, Macneal, MacNeal, Macneale,
MacNeale, MacNeillage, Macneillage, MacNelly, Macnelly,
MacNeally, Macneally, Mcneil, McNeil, Mcniel, McNiel,
Mcneill, McNeill, Mcneal, McNeal, Mcneale, McNeale,
McNeillage, Mcneillage, McNelly, McNelly, McNeally,
Mcneally, Neil, Neal, Neall, Neale, Neill, Niel, Niell, O'Neal,
O'Neil, O'Niel, O'Neill, Oneil, Oneill, Nelson, Neilson,
Nielson, MacGougan, Macgougan, MacGrail, Macgrail,
MacGugan, Macgugan, MacGuigan, Macguigan,
McGougan, Mogougan, McGrail, McGrail, Mograil, Mograil,
McGugan, Macgugan, McGuigan, Mcguigan



President C. McNeill Baker, Jr.
6959 Almonds Dr.
Jacksonville, FL 32117-2628
clan macneil.net



Clan Skene Association, Inc.

Invites membership from Skene and
septs Carison, Carney/Carnie, Currehill, Dyas,
Dyce, Dyer, Hall, Halyard/Hallyard,
MacGalliard, Rennie and Skains.

Robert J. Skeens, 2 VP & Membership Chairman
1705 Woodruff Street
Bethany, MO 64224
Email: rjskeens@grm.net



CLAN MACKINNON SOCIETY

Ron Webberson
High Commissioner/Convener

P. O. Box 832
Wilton, CA 95693
Phone: 916-687-7973
E-mail: clantent@cmksna.org



CLAN DAVIDSON SOCIETY, USA

Michael W. Davidson, President

235 Fairmont Drive Phone: 336-838-3850
North Wilkesboro, NC Email:
28659 MDavid8928@Aol.com

SCOTTISH TARTANS AUTHORITY USA

(formerly TECA)

The most comprehensive database of tartans



Peter Wilson, Registrar
5732 Rebel Dr Charlotte NC 28210
Tel 704 535 8955 Fax 704 973 9735
E-mail: pmwilson@greatscotintl.com

Web : www.tartansauthority.com

Scottish Clans & Organizations!

If you would like for your group to
be represented here, just contact BNFT
at bethscribble@aol.com

These ads are NOT expensive and
are a great way to reach potential new
members. \$5.00 per issue or \$60.00
per year. (Pay for a year and get 12
issues for only \$55.00)

Please send name and billing
address and your ad copy. If you wish
to send a business card and a check,
just mail to: Beth Gay, 347 Rocky
Knoll Rd., Walhalla, SC 29691. Makes
checks to Beth Gay, please.

Looking for a little touch of Scotland in the USA?



Virginia Vaughn

864 718-8781



*Soay Sheep have soft,
warm
fleece...wonderful
for knitting and any
project that calls
for lovely wool.*

We raise beautiful Soay sheep which originated on the isle of Hirta in the Outer Hebrides north of Scotland. We offer breeding stock, pets and lawn mowers, fleece and sometimes pelts.

We are located in South Carolina, but have experience shipping animals and other products nationwide. These beautiful sheep are chocolate brown and naturally shed their fleece in the spring. They have been traced back to the bronze age.

Add an extra element of authenticity to your next Scottish heritage event with these beautiful animals.

Virginia Vaughn 864 718-8781 or
oakknollfarm@hotmail.com.

frightful trade in human flesh” - with African slaves being taken to American ports by Brits, Scots, and others to be sold. I wonder if you would tell us about the white slave market practiced among pirates.

A: There was a huge market in the 1600s and 1700s for white slaves who were captured by Corsairs, Arabic pirate ships operating out into the Atlantic and Mediterranean from North African ports such as Tangier and Algiers. Many hundreds of Scots are known to have been taken prisoner during sea battles and sold in the slave markets. There are records of Scottish congregations taking collections for enslaved in Africa. Those who were most determined to survive often found it expedient to convert to Islam simply to survive captivity. There are many remarkable tales of this period, but if I related them all then it would be scarcely worth buying the book, it?

Q: In general, how did the captain of a pirate ship become the ship's captain? Once captain, did he remain captain?

A: It was a dangerous, often fatal, occupation to be captain of a pirate ship. If someone challenged your authority then you might fight it out to the death with cutlasses for the job of skipper, but often factions developed and a full-scale rammy might ensue with the victors ruthlessly executing or setting adrift those who had picked the wrong side. Any sign of weakness in a pirate captain and his days would be numbered. If the pirate chief was killed in battle, his successor was usually elected by general acclaim. However, if you set yourself up too

openly in advance as a potential successor, then you would be liable to wake up one morning with your throat cut.

Q: Was there a bit more about “that scoundrel” John Paul Jones which did not make your book that you would like to mention?

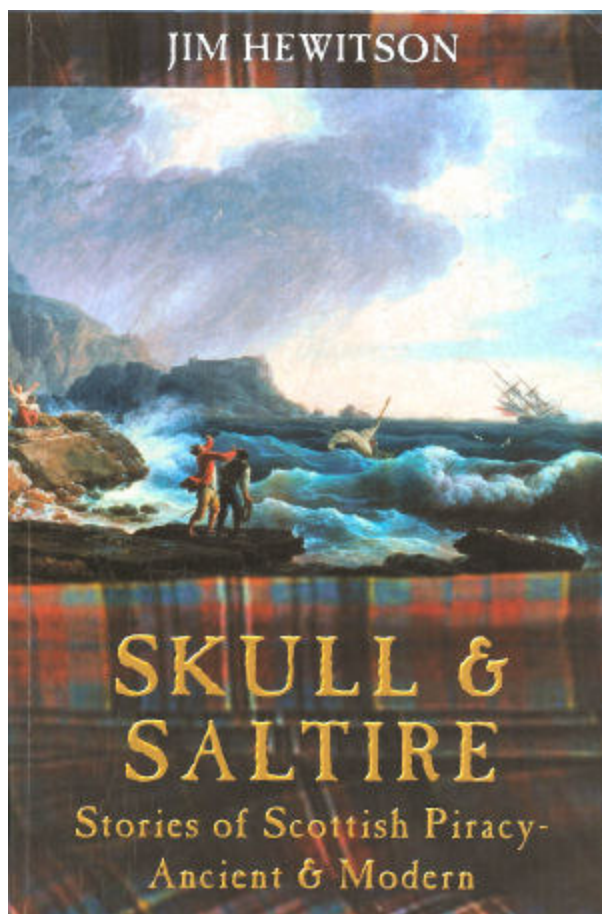
A: Fascinating character altogether, John Paul Jones. He was an absolute super-hero for the youthful United States but a villain of the first order in the eyes of the British people. He has such a place of honour in the book simply because his exploits make the ‘Pirates of the Caribbean’ adventures look quite tame. Imagine going back to your old home in a daring attempt to capture a Scottish nobleman as a hostage. Stirring stuff.

Q: “Harm’s way” is a phrase we hear a lot about today with the wars and fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. When Jones said, “...I intend to go into harm’s way,” was it the first time, as far as you know, that phrase was used?

A: Interesting point. I have certainly not come across this usage in earlier material and, even today, JPJ is such a hero in the United States that he is regularly quoted by

military sources. Could well be that he first brought the phrase to public notice. I would be interested to hear if anyone has any further information on this.

Q: Is it true that John Paul Jones, who died in Paris at the young age of forty-five, was buried in an unmarked grave for over 100 years before his body was finally brought back to America for burial at



Continued on page 17



Loch Ness,
Scotland...can't
you just imagine
a pirate ship
creeping up on a
gray day like
this?

Frank Shaw, Jim Hewitson, *continued from page 16*

Annapolis? Why did it take the American government so long to recognize him as the “Father of our Navy”?

A: Amazingly, this is true. He was given a funeral in France with full public honours but because of rules relating to Calvinists ‘and heretics’ he was buried in an unmarked grave. The site of this grave was forgotten, but after a bit of detective work by U.S. government officials, he was returned to the United States in 1905.

Q: As a small boy, I wanted to be a pirate because of the way they were portrayed in the Saturday afternoon movies that we attended in my hometown. My grandson Ian honored Captain Jack Sparrow last Halloween by dressing like him. Who was the pirate you wanted to be as a wee lad and why?

A: I always think Jack Sparrow is far too good looking and cool for a Scottish pirate. Grotty old Long John Silver was always my pirate of choice – complete with lop-sided parrot and eye patch. Once upon a time I used to be able to lift one eyebrow extra high and stare menacingly out of my one ‘good’ eye, while speaking and drooling out of the side of my mouth. How’s that for scary authentic?

Q: Of all the pirates you wrote about in your book, who is your favorite or the one who most interests you? Was it still the one you wanted to be as a lad?

A: Of course, Long John Silver is a literary creation. Of the real Scottish pirates, my favourite, who features in the *Skull & Saltire*, would have to be the Orkney-based Norse sea raider Swyen

Asleifsson who had his home on the wee island of Gairsay, lying 20 miles south from where I’m responding to your questions today. He drank and womanized throughout the winter, planted his crops in the spring, went off raiding as far as Dublin in the summer and was back in Gairsay in time for harvest. Yes, indeed, a pirate’s life for me.

Q: What are we currently to expect from your pen and have you published other books since this one?

A: My Christmas book this year is called *Does Anyone Like Midges?* and is a light-hearted look at issues which are currently occupying the Scots. As they say, it should be in all the best bookshops by mid-October.

Q: How does one get to Orkney from Edinburgh and, once there, how does one get to Papa Westray?

A: Fly, take the bus or a train – head north from Edinburgh or Glasgow. When you fall off the north end of Scotland, Orkney is but a brief breast stroke away. And once in Orkney look north again, and sniff the air. When you identify a heady mixture of tranquillity and Arctic ice, follow yer neb. Papa Westray awaits you.

Q: You have always been a good interviewee, and I’d like to know if there are any parting words you would like to leave with our readers?

A: As the Scots pirates used to say to each other before setting sail – ‘May the wind always fill yer sails, Jim me laddie – and it’s your turn to buy the grog!’

(FRS: 9-29-2006)

A HIGHLANDER AND HIS BOOKS

SKULL & SALTIRE

STORIES OF SCOTTISH PIRACY - ANCIENT & MODERN

By Jim Hewitson

Reviewed by Frank R. Shaw, Atlanta, GA, USA, email: jurascot@arthlink.net

Jim Hewitson has written another interesting book, and it's full of great stories of adventure-some Scottish men at sea. Hewitson points out something that all Scots should be proud of ... "the rip roaring Pirates of the Caribbean" is "built on a tradition nurtured by writers, including the Scots Robert Louis Stevenson, Sir Walter Scott, and Sir James Barrie, and has helped to sustain what is basically a grand myth."

The author looks upon America's "Father of the American Navy," John Paul Jones, as a pirate! How many of us on this side of the pond would agree with that assessment, particularly those guys in white hanging out at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, where the great man is entombed in the chapel similar to that of Napoleon at Les Invalides in Paris?

Jim, to his credit, goes on to say that "Scottish pirates were a particularly odd breed. They were either extraordinarily successful, heroic almost - in the mould of John Paul Jones - or they were simply not very good at their job, pretty poor pirates who would never have made the Piratical Top 100."

You cannot blame the author's depiction of Jones as pirate since history tells us that in April, 1788 Jones conducted some mischief on the Solway

Firth, capturing a fort, spiking 36 cannons, locking its defenders in the guardroom while burning and setting fire to as many as possible of the 200 ships anchored in Whitehaven's sanctuary. The Brits, with the biggest and best navy in the world, had not counted on a lone ship coming into their port and wrecking havoc with their navy.

Amazingly, author Hewitson points out, no one was hurt. To add insult to injury, Jones immediately set out to kidnap the Earl of Selkirk from his home at nearby St. Mary's Isle. John Paul Jones envisioned trading the good earl for some captured American prisoners.

Speculation abounds that his mother had been insulted by the earl. To the chagrin of Jones, Selkirk was not at home. John Paul Jones must have flunked his course in Kidnapping 101 which teaches that the first rule of kidnapping is to make sure the victim is at home.

With plunder on their minds, the crew decided to steal the royal silver from the women who were left at home to hold down the fort. With a snap of a finger Jones, who grew up in the area, became "the local boy made bad".

Not to be outdone by his crew, John Paul bought



Continued on page 22

35TH ANNIVERSARY 2007

STONE MOUNTAIN HIGHLAND GAMES & SCOTTISH FESTIVAL

2007 DATES

OCTOBER 20TH & 21ST

Attend "The Friendly Games."

Meet your fellow clansmen and celebrate the 34th Anniversary games along with our Honored guests and many old friends who will gather in this picturesque setting so rich in heritage.

SCOTTISH FESTIVAL & HIGHLAND GAMES

October 20th & 21st, 2007

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Stone Mountain Park Meadow

- Highland Games
- Gathering of Clans
- Exhibits
- Demonstrations
- Scottish Shops & Foods
- Pipe Bands
- Scottish Dancing
- Scottish Harping & Fiddling
- Scottish Musical Entertainment



Presented by:
STONE MOUNTAIN HIGHLAND GAMES, INC.
BOX 14023, ATLANTA, GA 30324
(770) 521-0228
Website: www.smlhg.org

*Plus park admission. No pets allowed please.

All rights reserved Stone Mountain Highland Games, Inc. 2007

Beth will be presenting talks on Scottish Genealogy and other interesting things on Friday before the Stone Mountain Highland Games at the Host Hotel. Times and exact location in the hotel TBA. Look for posters in the lobby. FREE!

The Tartan Lady



T-Bar Parade Banner

Lead your clan with pride and distinction. This elegant **Tartan Parade Banner** is made using your choice of tartan lined with coordinating fabric. Each banner displays a large clan crest and name and measures approximately 26" x 34".

Price: \$275.00

Tent Banner

This magnificent **Vinyl Tent Banner** displaying your clan tartan, crest and name proclaims your presence at any event. The 18" x 96" banner is made by printing your tartan and crest directly onto 12 oz. Colley Vinyl. Windslits prevent sailing. Grommets top and bottom.



Price: \$225.00



Tartan Flag

The 3' x 5' **Tartan Flag** is a beautiful way to display your tartan and identify your clan at events or at your home or office. It is custom made using your choice of tartan with a reinforced hem on one side to accommodate the flag pole.

Price: \$175.00

3-Piece Flag Pole

The vertical portion of the **3-Piece Flag Pole** comes in 2 pieces that can be screwed together to finish at 5'. The horizontal portion measures approximately 34". All 3 pieces are packaged in a canvas storage bag for ease in transporting and storing.



Price: \$85.00



Pole Carrier

Rest those weary arms! The adjustable white web pole carrier is worn around the neck and has a pouch at the bottom to support the flag pole. Machine washable. This carrier is also a novel way of displaying your game pins.

Price: \$30.00

P.O. Box 445
Lakeland, GA 31635

The Tartan Lady

<http://www.TheTartanLady.com>

229-548-2693
229-482-2693

**VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE FOR MANY NEW AND UNIQUE ITEMS!
OTHER HERITAGE & PROFESSIONAL GROUPS REPRESENTED.
SEE YOU AT THE GAMES!**

Heritage Wall Hangings

Proudly Display Your Clan Tartan and Crest or
Create a Family Heirloom with Beautifully Embroidered Celtic Symbols

Choose the Method to Fit Your Space

5"x7" Stock Frame – suitable for confined space or for table display – **\$35.00**

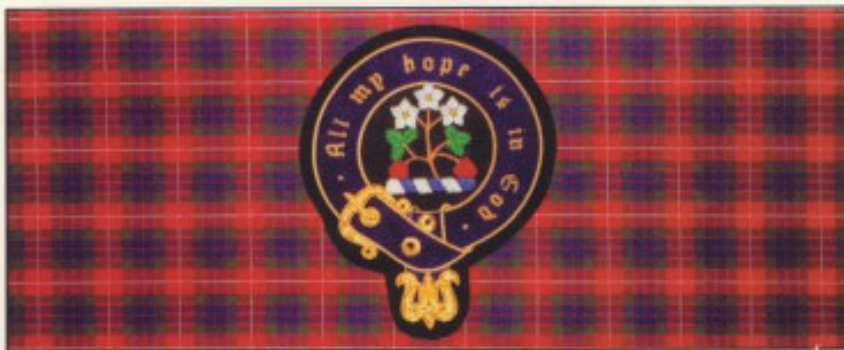
8 1/2"x11" Stock Frame – suitable for larger areas or table display – **\$75.00**

15"x15" Custom Frame – for prominent wall display – **\$175.00**

16"x33" Custom Frame – for large area display such as over mantle or office area – **\$250.00**

34"x56" Unframed, Lined and Bound – suitable for very large areas to be hung on decorative rod (rod not included) – **\$250.00**

(All prices plus applicable sales tax, shipping and handling.)



Many tartans are now available in cotton blends to prevent moth damage. However some are only available from Scottish mills and are woven in wool. Wool is not recommended for use for the large unframed hangings.

The crests are individually produced using both machine and hand stitchery matching fabric, metallic threads and silk threads to create vivid representations.



These displays emphasize the legacies of yesteryear and honor the heritage of our Celtic ancestors. They were first designed as personalized funeral accessories to be used as framed displays before the need and inserted inside the casket at the appropriate time. The large unframed hanging is suitable as a pall for closed casket services and allows for family names and birth and death dates to be added. This will become a treasured heirloom by future generations.

Personalized crematory vessels are also available.



Celtic symbols are uniquely digitized and panels are produced using computerized stitchery. The colors are carefully selected to accomplish these beautiful pieces. The thistle is in hues of purple and lavender with green and gold accents on a light green background. The black rampant lion is stitched on a beige background and is also available featuring a red lion on gold fabric. Other designs are also available such as Celtic knots and crosses. Colors can be customized to fit your décor.



Eternally You

P.O. Box 445 • Lakeland, Georgia 31635
Telephone (229) 482-3003 • Home (229) 482-2693
E-mail: zellna@alltel.net • www.eternallyyou.com



Copyright 2002 by Eternally You, Inc. All rights reserved. Patent pending 2002.



There's more to this flag than perhaps you might think...

Originally, this flag was “skull and crossbones” which came from the flag the Knights Templar flew when bringing a fallen compatriot home. The skull and crossbones represented the body parts it was possible to bring home for burial. Later, after the suppression and torture of the Templars, the skull and crossbones became associated with piracy.,

Skull & Saltire, continued from page 19

the silver from his men and later returned it to the earl's family! The author goes on to say that Jones “corresponded with Lady Selkirk, who, we are told, believed him to be a generous man of integrity.”

Take that, Captain Jack Sparrow!

My son Scott, a former high school history teacher, has talked with me regarding the meaning of the phrase, “Pieces of Eight”. It is that time in my life for the son to teach the father, and Scott does a good job with the things I do not know or understand – computers, young movie stars, today's music, rap and sap, etc. Basically, “Pieces of Eight” is a Spanish phrase about silver, and it took eight pieces to make a reale (royal) or a whole reale (coin). You will recognize the phrase referencing our silver coins, “two bits, four bits, six bits a dollar”. It took eight bits to make a whole dollar!

These little vignettes, just a few lines long, tell some wonderful stories in and of themselves and help make the book whole or complete. Among the “Pieces of Eight” are these little gems.

For instance, Jim writes that “piracy is often said to be the oldest profession, following prostitution and medicine. I'm sure there must be a joke there somewhere...”

The most successful pirate was Captain Bartholomew Roberts, having captured at least 400 ships. A pirate is not usually associated with the word

coward, but the author tells us of a “cowardly captain” of the Carolinas who sailed away rather than fight, hiding as a backwoodsman for a year.

Also, hundreds of crewmen on pirate ships, to ease hernia symptoms, wore trusses. Somehow I cannot picture Earl Flynn wearing a truss, much less Captain Jack Sparrow!

Another tidbit of interest we learn is that “pirates wore golden earrings because they believed it gave them sharper eyesight.”

My wife Susan heartily believes in this concept!

There are many more “Pieces of Eight” in the book, and I love the one about Louis le Golif. He was nicknamed Borgne-Fesse, and one historian suggests that he earned his nickname because someone had slashed off one of his buttocks. Ouch!

I highly recommend this book by Jim Hewitson. It takes you back to your childhood. What little boy has not played make believe games about pirates? Johnny Depp has made a fortune playing Captain Jack Sparrow in *Pirates of the Caribbean – The Curse of the Black Pearl* and the sequel, *Dead Man's Chest*, one of the highest grossing movies of all time.

Production for the third sequel is currently underway with the film scheduled for release in the summer of 2007. Depp has rewritten the characterizations of piracy to the extent that the June 26, 2006

Continued on page 23

issue of *Newsweek* magazine featured Johnny Depp on the front cover.

How do I know about Johnny Depp? Well, Ian at six years of age and Stirling at four, my two precious grand bairns if I may use that phrase, keep their Papa informed.

Ian was actually dressed as Captain Jack Sparrow for Halloween last year .

Move over Johnny Depp, you wish you were so handsome!

In conclusion, Jim Hewitson's *Skull & Saltire* reminds me of a wonderful old drinking song by one of my favorite singers, Jimmy Buffet. Entitled "A Pirate Looks at Forty," some of the lines might not be appropriate for this column but they certainly are for old salts who long for the earlier days on the sea. With apologies to Buffet for using only a portion of the lyrics, listen up mates:

"Yes, I am a pirate, two hundred years too late,
The cannons don't thunder, there's nothing to plunder,
I'm an over-forty victim of fate, Arriving too late,
arriving too late.

But I've done a bit of smugglin, I've run my share of grass, I've made enough money to buy Miami, but Iit away so fast, Never meant to last, never meant to last.

Some books are more difficult to review than others. But *Skull & Saltire* has been fun because the subject brings back wonderful memories of childhood. It is not often a book review can be written to include a personal view, as well as references to members of the family.

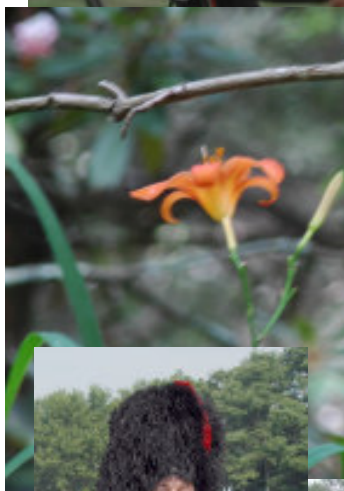
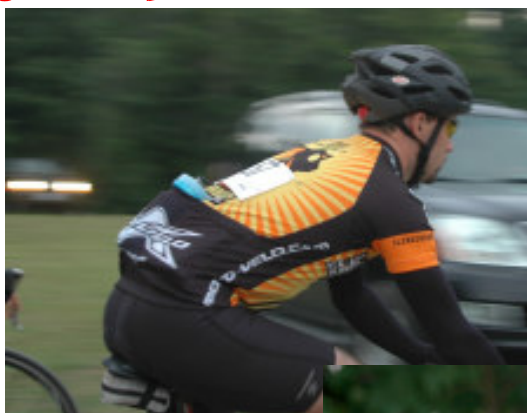
Jim's book allows this personal touch due to the warmth of his writing style on the subject. Thanks, Jimmy Buffet, for a great song. Thanks, Jim Hewitson, for another great book. Thanks, too, Jim, for your inscription in my copy of the book which I feel compelled to share with our readers: "To Frank, Keep it Electric! Jim Hewitson, Spring 2006."

Buy *Skull & Satire* at any good bookstore using ISBN 1 84502 026 X for 9.99 pounds, plus shipping and handling, of course. Jim will appreciate it, and you will too when you read the book! It is one you will want to share but more importantly, it is a keeper!
(FRS: 9-29-2006)

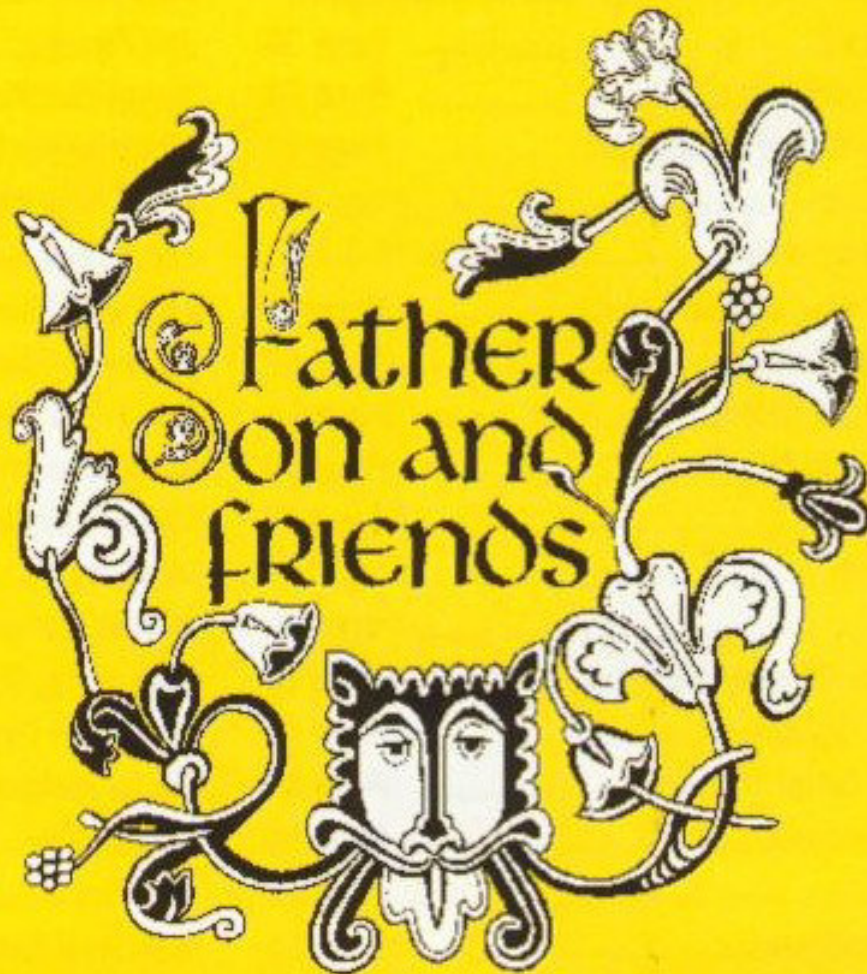


Loch Norman Highland Games, Huntersville, NC.

Grandfather Mountain 2007



Grandfather Mountain 2007



TRADITIONAL CELTIC FOLK MUSIC

For information regarding recordings or performances
send a self addressed stamped envelope to:

**Father Son & Friends
4330 Arrowrock Ave.
Riverside, Ohio 45424**

Or Call Us At:

(937) 836-9530

www.fathersonandfriends.com

joeyhall@erinet.com

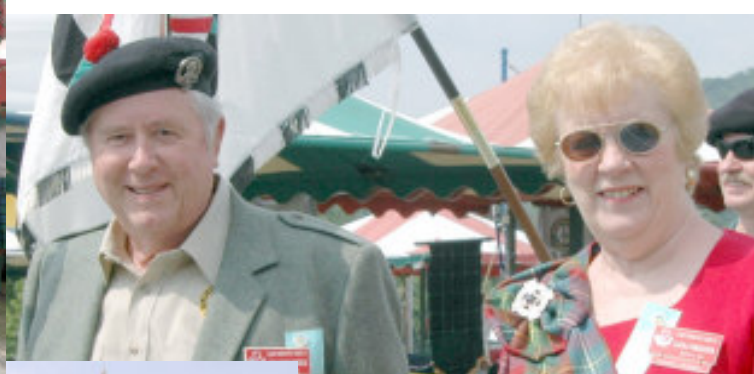
Grandfather Mountain 2007





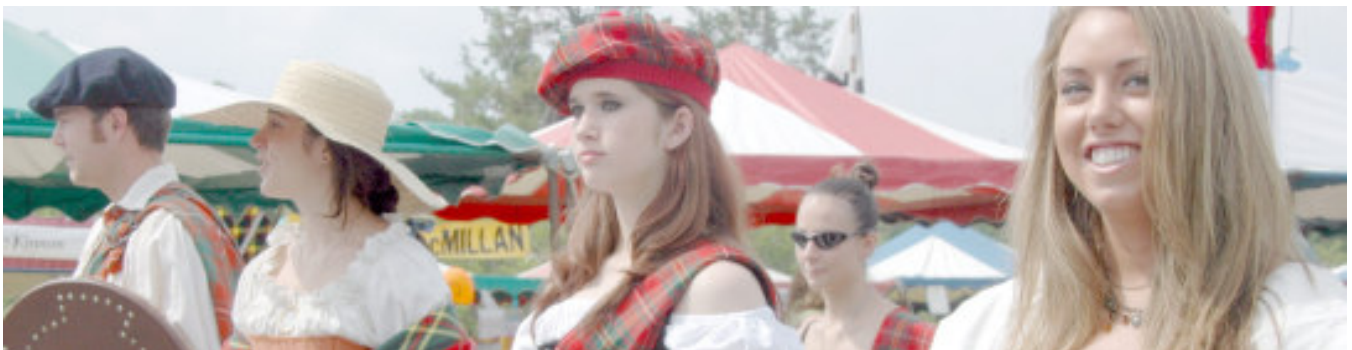
*Grandfather Mountain
2007*

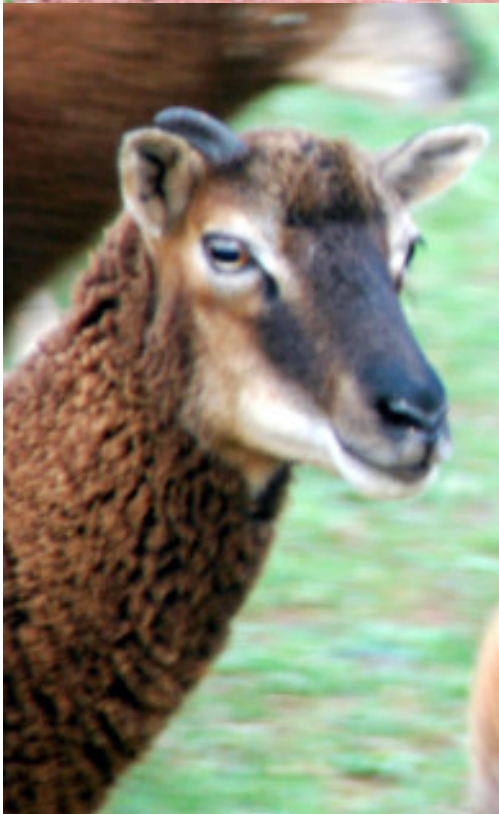




*Grandfather
Mountain 2007*

Grandfather Mountain 2007





Scottish Soay Sheep in South Carolina



The Scottish Soay Rams (above) all trace their “family” back to Hurda in Scotland. The breed sheds its fleece in spring and is kind and gentle.