



Volume 2

Number 7, Section A

January 2008

## Howard Shaw, CSA, FSA Scot announces his Clan Chattan retirement

Howard Shaw of Lompoc, California has announced his retirement as chairman of the Clan Chattan USA group. Shaw served as Chairman of the Clan Chattan USA for the past eighteen years. He will assume the role of the Immediate Past Chairman and promises to serve that position for at least one or more years.

Shaw cited the fact that his wife, Marialyce, could no longer travel and that he was reluctant to leave her home alone.

Shaw said, "I wish to thank all of you who have assisted me in conducting the affairs of Clan Chattan USA. It has been a privilege. The job has been made easier, and even possible, by the help of my faithful wife, Marialyce."

Most of our readers who have enjoyed The Golf Channel on cable television have seen Howard Shaw. If you see an advertisement for the Blind Golfers Association, that's Howard on the screen. Golf has been his passion for many years and he competed for many years in the BGA. Before retirement, Mr. Shaw was an executive geologist for a major oil company.

Bill Wood announced that he would, if elected

to the office by the Board of Trustees for Clan Chattan. He took office on 1 January 2008.

Clan Chattan is the "Cat Confederation" composed of the thirteen Scottish Clan families who use the "Touch Not the Cat Bot With A Glove" motto.

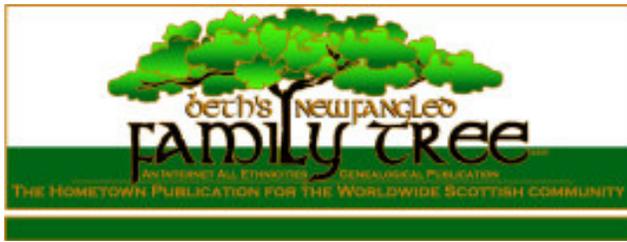
Dual membership is offered to all Constituent Clan members who are current in their own clan dues by paying a membership fee of \$15 per year.

The Clan Chattan USA guarantees no outside influence on the internal affairs of a Constituent Clan and makes a seat on the Board of Trustees available for each of the Constituent Clans. That Trustee seat is filled by the internal election of the Constituent Clan.

The High Chief and Captain of the Clan Chattan is Malcolm Kenneth Mackintosh of Mackintosh, Torcastle and Clan Chattan. Chiefs of the Clans of Clan Chattan include Jock Davidson of New Zealand; Captain A. A. C. Farquharson of Invercauld, MC; James McBain of McBain; Clan Mackintosh is represented by John Mackintosh of

*Continued on page 14 A*





*Editor, photographer, etc.*

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*and her staff:*

*Sylvester Highway Bob Wire Flop-cat*

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*Miss Narra The Wonder Cat (at 13)  
Sylvester, Peggy Hairy and  
Bicket... Ruby Lou Begonia  
as well as Beth, Tom and Alastair*

## *Letter from your editor...beth*

# Oh, I have lost a beloved friend....

My sweet little Arabian mare, My Brendah, died from "old age" early Monday morning, October 29. She graced my life with her unique personality and gentle soul for twenty-six years.

When she was a young horse, she had that curse of horsedom, laminitis. I'll never forget how she let us do our best to help her. She even wore my sneakers on her fronts for a few hours to give her some relief from the hard ground until the farrier could get to us.

Before I knew about the laminitis and when I thought she was completely sound, I rode her and enjoyed her cat-like grace and natural ease and smoothness. She wore a hackamore with a shadow roll and a leather strap. Horse folks will know this rig is only for the kindest horses. She was beautiful under saddle and a joy always to ride.

After the laminitis was diagnosed, I never rode her again for fear she would be hurt.

I found out that this particular line of Arabs was very prone to laminitis, even though they were, to look at, perfect specimens of the breed. My pair of registered Arabs were full brother and sister - and shared a National Champion father and a mother owned by a famous celebrity singer who lives out west - but both horses would have laminitis attacks. Brendah eventually "outgrew" hers, but her brother did not.

Laminitis is what caused the death of the famous race horse, Secretariat, and the lovely horse

who was injured while racing - was his name "Barbadoes?" Laminitis is when the inside of the hoof swells. Eventually, there is no support in the hoof for the legbone. Veterinary science knows surprisingly little about it.

When Brendah was brought to South Carolina, she was for the first time, alone. I had lost

my lovely AQHA mare, Poco Lanette - Sweet Thing - many years before to cancer after 28 years together...and Brendah's beautiful brother, My Yankee, had lost his own fight - at age 24 - with laminitis less than a year before I moved from South Georgia..

Brendah had a nanny goat for company and there were always cows in the next field in Colquitt County. She was not happy here without a companion. Brendah Sue Louise craved company.

In spite of my own financial worries, I found her a companion

I call Ruby Lou Begonia. The two mares were delighted with each other from the very moment they met. Brendah gained weight and thrived...and Ruby Lou soon became slick and fat.

When I left for my hip surgery, I did as was my habit...and told the horses where I was going and when I would be back. At that time, Brendah was like always, eating her supper with gusto and enjoying life.

I'm so glad I told her goodbye.

My neighbor who had agreed to feed my ani-

*Continued on page 4*



**AHA My Brendah "Brenda Sue Louise"**

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**A letter from your editor, continued from page 3**

mals the four days I was in the hospital called us Sunday night and told us Brendah wouldn't eat her supper. We could not find a vet at 8 PM on a Sunday evening...but the neighbor said she did not appear to be in much distress. I asked to be released from the hospital to go and see about her, but I was refused.

Monday morning, my neighbor called and said Brendah still would not eat. I was released about 10 AM and we made a beeline for home. I couldn't walk, but could use the walker and one leg...and I walked as best I could into the pasture and whistled and called for my mare...and she did not - for the first time in 26-years - respond. The vet arrived about that time and I told him, "You know, she has to be dead or she would whicker for me or come to me..." Thankfully, she had fallen

into a brush pile that was soft, and was gone by the time she landed, the vet said.

So, I share my grief with you all. Love is all too often impossible to find in this world - and for many years my horses, dogs and cats, were all that I had.

I'm doing fine from the surgery, although the first month was most unpleasant. I'm walking without aid and can function pretty well. If you didn't know I had total hip replacement, you couldn't tell, I am told. I'm driving already and am pain free for the first time in more years than I can remember.

My heart will always hurt for the loss of that innocent and kind mare, Brendah Sue Louise, as it still does for her beautiful brother I called DooDah and my Sweet Thing.

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Clachnaben from the Cairn o' Mount Road  
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The Isle of Mull, 2005



# Scotland on TV in Islay

Back in November, the good people at Bowmore Distillery invited Scotland on TV to visit the beautiful island of Islay and its distillery there. Known as the Queen of the Hebrides Islay is the southernmost of the Inner Hebridean islands. It lies in Argyll and Bute, just to the west of Jura and just 25 miles north of the Irish coast.

Islay has stunning scenery with beautiful lochs and sandy beaches all around the island that offer some of the most impressive sunsets in Scotland. Furthermore, Islay is inhabited by an amazing and diverse wildlife, with more than 200 different species of birds, dolphins, seals and deer, amongst others, and also some very rich and interesting historic sites such as Bowmore's Round Church or the remains of the settlements of the Lords of the Isles in Finlaggan.

The isle of Islay is famous around the world mostly for one thing: its malt whiskies. This small island has eight whisky distilleries and is a must for any single malt lover.

Islay boasted dozens of distilleries during the middle of the 19th century, but the island's whisky making tradition is believed to have been introduced much earlier. It is understood to have begun during the fourteenth century, when Irish monks found in Islay the perfect natural resources to produce the Uisge Beathe (water of life): clean air, unlimited supplies of peat and abundant pure

water. This ancient tradition still continues today in Islay with the eight distilleries



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In all we produced three separate videos on Islay – sponsored by

When on Islay we were blessed with beautiful weather, even though it was November. So to see the island looking beautiful and to find out more about its people and its long history of whisky-making make you sure you come visit us at [www.scotlandontv.tv](http://www.scotlandontv.tv)

# A brief history of Balgonie Castle

## Stuart Morris of Balgonie

The origins of Balgonie Castle are lost in the mists of time as the area has been inhabited for the past eight thousand years.

Balgonie is situated on the border between the Pictish kingdoms of Fib (Fife) and Fortren/Forthrif.

The castle is built on the south bank of the winding river Leven which flows from Loch Leven (where Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned) to the Burgh of Leven and the Firth of Forth. This valley or Strath was erected into the Lordship of Strathleven by King Malcolm IV, who granted it to Duncan, Earl of Fife in 1155.

The first recorded Lairds of Balgonie were the Sibbald family. The Sibbalds held the office of Constable of Cupar in 1120. They would have been responsible for law and order throughout the north east of Fife. It is unknown when the Sibbalds gained Balgonie.

There is record of Sir Duncan Sibbald of Balgonie living here before 1246.

Markinch, the town to the north of the castle, was one of the official law centres of Scotland, by decree of William the Lion. With this legal connection, it is probable that the Earl of Fife may have granted Balgonie to his loyal vassal. There is no record of what the early Sibbalds lived in, but there must have been some form of building on the site at this time.

The name Balgonie means "Settlement of the Smiths", the Picts of this area were renowned for their silver work, so Balgonie may have been a residence of a Pictish silversmith. There is a

Papal Bull of 1250 mentioning a chapel here, belonging to Sir Duncan.

Although Edward I of England visited Markinch in 1296, his chronicler made no mention of Balgonie. He mentions the existence of three substantial houses and a Minster in Markinch but no castle.

The oldest part still standing is the great

Tower. This is built of finely cut Ashlar, quarried near by. The sheer quality of the masonry, together with the lack of decoration, would point to the construction of the tower to some time around 1300. The tower is officially accepted as the oldest complete tower standing in Fife and one of the oldest in Scotland. The Tower is on five floors, rising to a height of seventy five



*Balgonie Castle at night*

feet. The ground floor is barrel vaulted, making it fireproof, with walls up to ten and a half feet thick. This room was originally used to store food. The only access was via a ladder from the floor above. The present day door was added in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, probably using the arch of an alcove built to store wine barrels.

The original entrance in to the Tower was an external ladder/stair to the first floor. The first floor is the barrel vaulted Great Hall, thirty feet long by twenty feet wide and the vault is almost twenty feet high. This would have been the heart of the castle, where every one ate, seated in a strict order of precedence, where guests were received, where the Laird's court was held and where the servants would have slept.

Unusually, there is no built-in fireplace in this

*Continued on page 9*

## Balgonie Castle, *continued from page 8*

room. The fire would have originally been in the centre of the floor, probably some form of brazier. The smoke would eventually escape through the smoke vents in the gable walls.

Because of the unusual fire arrangement, this room was not modernised, therefore, this room has the only original window seats left in the castle. All the others were removed in order to widen the windows in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The window seat in the north wall may have been adapted as a mini bedroom, by the use of shutters or a curtain.

We have tried to keep the medieval atmosphere of this room by using the original three sided table arrangement and only using candles for illumination.

We also have banners bearing the Arms of all the families that have held the Castle over the centuries. We have re-built the minstrels gallery, which we have also decorated with the Arms of the Lairdly families.

From the North West corner of this room rises the spiral or turnpike stair, which would have been the only access to the floors above. The next floor is the Laird's Hall, which would have been the main room that the family would have lived in. There is a fine seven foot wide fireplace in the north wall, next to this is the Guardrobe (a stone seat with a hole in it hanging over the wall).

We have painted the ceiling with fifty four shields, mainly of Fife Lairds and mainly connected to Balgonie through marriage. This is based on the ceiling of another Fife castle. The two floors above this room are divided in to bedrooms and

storage. Above the top floor is a four foot wide parapet walk, from which we can see the Bass Rock, twenty two miles away, in the Firth of Fourth. Above this is the lookout tower, from which we can see out to the North Sea. The roof is nineteen tons of stone slabs.

There is very little record of the early activities of the Sibbald family. Though there is a possibility that one or more of the family were Knights Templar. The Arms of Sibbald of Balgonie are almost identical to the Temple Arms, differenced by a square hole in the centre of the cross.

There are also many sites around Balgonie that have Temple in their name, so these sites must have belonged to the Temple at one time.

The family often acted as witnesses to documents for the Priory of St Andrews.

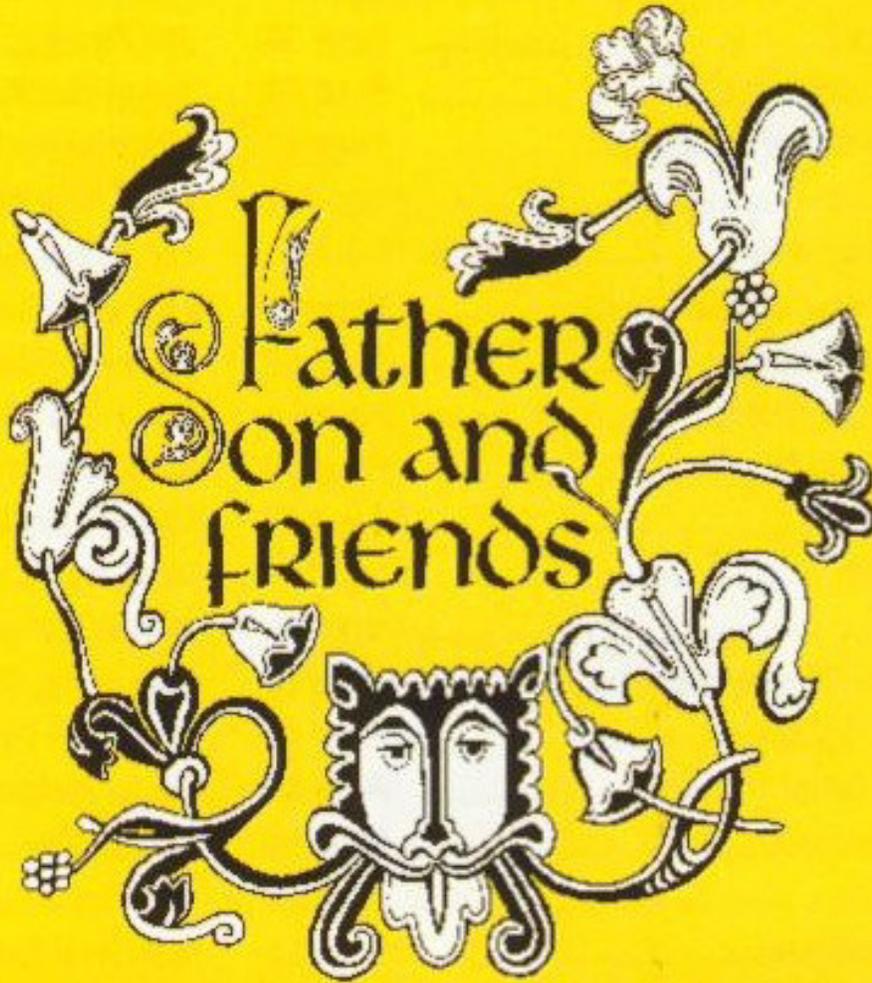
Sir Thomas Sibbald of Balgonie was Treasurer to King David II, son of Robert the Bruce. Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Sibbald of Balgonie, married George, 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Angus. One de-



*The Balgonie/Elliott Chief, his two sons and his pipers*

scendant from this union was Henry, Lord Darnley, second husband of Mary, Queen of Scots. The senior line of the family ended with Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Sibbald of Balgonie, Sheriff of Fife. She married Sir Robert Lundin, son of Andrew Lundin of Pitlochrie (brother of Sir John Lundin of that Ilk). Sir Robert Lundin, now of Balgonie, was very active in the king's court. He held the offices of Lord High Treasurer, First Usher of the King's Chamber, Comptroller, Chamberlain

*Continued on page 11*



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**Balgonie Castle, continued from page 9**

of Galloway, Strathearn, Petty, Brauchly, Menteith and Ballincrief, Governor of Stirling Castle and Sheriff of Fife. He had also been knighted for his military role during the border war of 1497.

Sir Robert managed to find the time to modernise and enlarge Balgonie. He was responsible for building the Hall House that forms the north range. We know that this work was completed in 1496 because, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August of that year, James IV visited Balgonie.

The King was so impressed by the work that he gave the masons Eighteen Shillings (roughly £500 in today's money). This building incorporates an earlier corner tower, which, in turn, incorporates the Chapel.

One interesting feature is that one has to step down in to the Chapel. This is indicative of an early Christian structure, which could in turn indicate that this could date from the 13<sup>th</sup> century or earlier.

We restored the Chapel eighteen years ago. The furniture has all been salvaged from redundant churches throughout Scotland. We only use candles in this and the preceding room, one hundred and fifty five in all, which creates a unique and authentic atmosphere. This is a working chapel, where we have held a monthly public service for the past eighteen years. We have also had over nine hundred weddings.

The other end of the ground floor housed the new kitchen. The whole ground floor is barrel vaulted, the kitchen vault shows signs of an early 'dumb waiter', to take food up to the room above. The original kitchen had been a freestanding building in the Courtyard. The original access to the first floor was via an external oak stair and gallery, we have rebuilt part of this. There was then an oak bridge linking the Hall House to the Tower.

The first floor had a new Great Hall, fifty five

*Continued on page 15*

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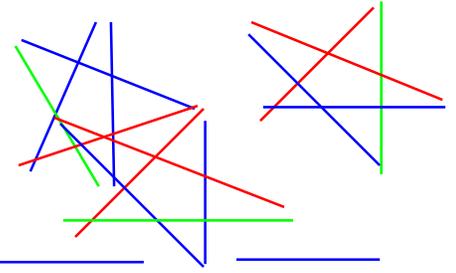
**Session Two – 1:30pm-3:45pm: *Interactive Session  
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**Registration: Call (239) 542-3953 or e-mail**

**Bryan Mulcahy at [bmulcahy@leegov.com](mailto:bmulcahy@leegov.com)**

# The Holiday Season and Genealogical Research

Bryan Mulcahy



The months of November and December and January present many opportunities for family gatherings.

Holidays such as Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas - as well as New Year's - tend to be the most popular dates for these occasions.

Due to our hectic modern world, we must often choose one of these dates as the only time of the year when most family members are present in the same house or gathering place. These holiday gatherings often provide many opportunities to share family traditions and stories.

You may find yourself in many one-on-one and group situations when it may be appropriate to share family history information with others.

Discussing holidays past is appropriate to the current holidays; it adds to other people's enjoyment of the occasion and still affords you with the opportunity to discuss family history. Some examples of how this can be accomplished include the following:

1. **Travel Time:** The time you spend in route to relatives' homes presents potential opportunities for building new memories and sharing old ones. Not only can you enjoy the trip and the sights you see, but you can also recount stories about other trips you have made.

2. **Family Vacations:** Trips of this nature were much more popular in previous eras. Today's hectic world has lessened the impact of this tradition. Recalling where you went, how

you traveled, with whom you traveled, what you took, and your experiences on the trip can be enjoyable for you and interesting to others.

3. **Holiday Decorations:** Holidays are the occasions for breaking out special decorations and family keepsakes. Treasured ornaments, special family china and holiday serving pieces, handmade linens, and other items provide opportunities to share family history information. A handmade ornament may be a family heirloom, and telling the story of its origin reinforces and perpetuates its history from one generation to another.

4. **Photograph Albums:** Albums have proven track records for getting conversations started. Consider placing a single photograph or family album in a prominent place for people to peruse. You will be surprised at the memories and conversations photographs can evoke.

5. **Meal Time:** Meals are excellent times for telling stories. You pretty much have a captive audience.

6. **Story Time:** Children adore stories. If you are a good storyteller, look for opportunities to draw the children aside to a quiet place where you can share a little family history in the form of a story.

*Compiled by Bryan L. Mulcahy, Reference Librarian, Fort Myers Lee-County Library 11/17/2007 Bryan L. Mulcahy Reference Librarian Fort Myers-Lee County Library 2050 Central Avenue Fort Myers, FL 33901-3917 Tel: (239) 479-4651 Fax: (239) 479-4634 E-Mail: bmulcahy@leegov.com*



## “...sadly, Lady Colquhoun died on Tuesday 17th April”

Lady Kathleen Colquhoun died peacefully, on 17th April, 2007.

Lady Kathleen Nimmo Colquhoun of Luss, (nee Duncan) beloved wife of Ivar and devoted mother to Iona and Malcolm was honored at a funeral service at Luss Parish Church, at 2 pm, on Wednesday, 25th April. Committal thereafter at Cardross Crematorium.”

Lady Colquhoun of Luss, who died 17 April, 2007, was the wife of Sir Ivar Iain Colquhoun of Luss, 8th Baronet (born 4 January 1916), and the maternal grandmother of the 13th Duke of Argyll.

She was the former Kathleen Nimmo Duncan, 2nd daughter of Walter Atholl Duncan, of Cadogan Square, London, and sister of Marjorie Ray Duncan, who married in 1938, the 6th Earl of Verulam.

She married Sir Ivar in 1943 and was mother of (i) Iona Mary (born 1945) who married 1964, the 12th Duke of Argyll (1937-2001); and (ii) Malcolm Rory Colquhoun (born 20 December 1947).

### Howard Shaw retires, continued from page 1

Mackintosh; The Hon. Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, T.D.; Andrew MacThomas of Finegand; Rev. Donald Maclean of Dochgarroch; and John Shaw of Tordarroch, Ross-Shire.

For further information on Clan Chattan, please contact the editor of the *Paw Prints* Newsletter, Alonso D. Chattan, 222 McAllister Ave., Kentfield, CA 94904. Email: achattan@yahoo.com

It has been the great pleasure of your editor's to have been an Honorary Member of this wonderful organization for many years and also to have been honored by the friendship of Howard and Marialyce Shaw.



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## Balgonie Castle, *continued from page 11*

and a half feet long by twenty one and a half feet wide. This room has two fireplaces which were originally ten feet wide (reduced in the 17<sup>th</sup> C, to burn coal). The windows on the south wall look in to the Courtyard, the windows on the north wall look out to the Deer Park.

The room next to this was the Laird's own room, with an eight foot wide fire place. There would have been a spectacular timber beamed roof, similar to the Great Hall in Edinburgh Castle. However, this wing was heightened in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, adding another floor.

At this time, the Hall would have had a spectacular moulded plaster ceiling, oak panelled walls and black and white marble floor. There had been a teen foot gap between the Tower and Hall House, in order that both buildings could be independently defended. This gap was finally filled-in in 1666, but more of that later.

There were nine Lundin Lairds of Balgonie and during their period the castle was extended to the size it is today, covering about one acre. The East Range was added to provide more family accommodation. A twenty one foot high Barmkin wall encloses the courtyard. There is a Gatehouse in the south west corner, which would have originally had a draw-bridge over a dry ditch, possibly fifteen feet deep.

The Gatehouse was modernised in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The ditch was filled in and a new round tower was added to the front of the Gatehouse. There are guard rooms on either side of the gate, the north guardroom gives access to the pit prison. The prison is nine feet long by four in width, there is no window but there is the luxury of a built-in toilet, if it could be found in the dark!

The room above the gate would have offered accommodation to the Captain of Balgonie, who

was responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the area. There is the base of a spiral stair which would have given access to the parapet over the gate. There was a secondary gate, with tower, in the south wall. There would have also been a two story building in the north west corner of the courtyard, also with a corner tower.

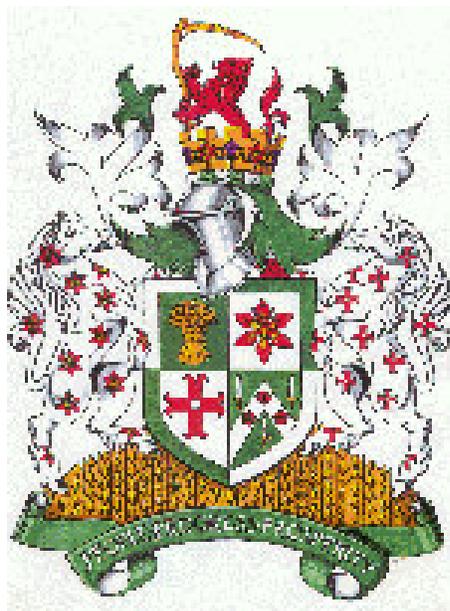
This building has disappeared but its dimensions are known, through the foundations and marks on the Tower wall. The Lundin family also added greatly to the Balgonie Estate, which was one of the largest in Fife. They also owned lands and Baronies in Berwickshire, Angus and Strathearn.

At this time, Balgonie would have obviously played host to many important people. The records from this time are sparse but we know that Mary, Queen of Scots visited Balgonie in 1565. She then went on to Wemyss Castle, where she met Lord Darnley for the first time. As I said above, Lord Darnley (or more accurately Master of Lennox) was descended from the Sibbalds of Balgonie. To commemorate this and the earlier visit of James IV, my father carved a door for the Great Hall, bearing the Arms of James IV, Mary,

Queen of Scots, Lord Darnley and Lundin of Balgonie.

The Lundin of Balgonie family were clearly a rich, powerful and influential family involved in the affairs of State. Many of the children married into equally powerful and influential families. One marriage produced a line that was to divide in to two, each of which were created Earls. Another daughter of the family, Agnes married Sir William Graham of Claverhouse. Their great grandson was John, 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount of Dundee, who was killed at the height of his victory at the battle of Killcrankie.

*Continued on page 16*



*Arms of the Town of Balgonie*

In spite of this, the line came to an abrupt end with Robert, 9<sup>th</sup> Lundin of Balgonie. And like all good fairy tails it involved a step-mother. She seems to have had a great financial claim on the Estate, when her husband died, which seems to have bankrupted her stepson. The situation deteriorated so much that officers of the law were sent to apprehend him. Their approaching was seen and Robert and his servant, William Downy, armed themselves with hagbuts and pistols. A chase ensued but they were finally cornered in the churchyard in Markinch. A deputation of the Parish Heritors persuaded them to give themselves up. He was detained in the Tollbooth of Edinburgh.

Balgonie was sold, in 1626, to two brothers, James Boswell of Lochgelly and David Boswell of Craigincat. They did not enjoy Balgonie for long. In 1634 their creditors sold the Estate to Field Marshal Sir Alexander Leslie, through John, Earl of Rothes.

Field Marshal Sir Alexander Leslie of Balgonie was the greatest Scottish soldier of the 17th century. He was born around 1582, the son of George Leslie, Captain of Blair Castle and Bailie of the Regality of Atholl. He was foster brother to Sir Coline Campbell of Glenorchy and brought up at Kilchurn Castle in Argyll, where he received a full education. Shortly after 1600, Leslie was an Officer in the the Dutch service. He had clearly made a name for himself because King Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden offered him a Captaincy in the Swedish Army.

This was the beginning of a career that was to last thirty years. Much of his time was spent fighting in the German States, where he never lost a battle, earning the nickname "Leslie the Great".

In 1622, he raised the Varmlands Regiment for the King. This Regiment lasted until 2000, when it was disbanded under Swedish defence cuts. However the name and Battle Honours carry on in the Varmlands Brigade. He was Governor of the Southern Baltic for a while and Governor of the City of Stralsund, which he had captured. He was present (and wounded) at the battle of Lutzen in 1632, where Gustavus Adolphus was killed.

In the opposing Army was his distant cousin Walter Leslie, later Field Marshal Count Leslie, Knight of the Order of the Golden Fleece.

Leslie returned home on leave in 1635 when he was given several Freedoms, including Kirkcaldy and Culross. He also took the opportunity to buy Balgonie, through his distant relative the Earl of Rothes. He retired from the Swedish Army in 1638. He had Balgonie modernised during these three intervening years, including heightening the Hall House, renovating the east range, re-modelling the Gatehouse and enlarging the windows in the Tower.

When Leslie retired from Sweden, he knew that he was probably coming back to civil war. Therefore, in lieu of his pension, he brought back two field guns and two thousand muskets. He also negotiated the right to recall Scottish Officers from the Swedish Army.

In 1639, Leslie was given command of the Scottish Army of the Covenant, in what was called the First Bishop's War. So great was his reputation that he was able to take Edinburgh Castle, without the loss of a drop of blood. He simply put a petard against the main gate, blew it open and the garrison surrendered. Leslie then marched the Army south to face the King at Duns, on the Border.

King Charles I thought that he could bring the English Army up and subdue the unruly Scots but he had misjudged Leslie. The King's undisciplined Army lined up and faced a professional Army, commanded by an experienced Officer Corps and with uniformed regiments. The King realised that he could not win and sued for peace, this led to the Treaty of Berwick.

This event is the basis for the nursery rhyme "There was a Crooked Man".

The Second Bishop's War occurred in 1640. Leslie marched the Scottish Army in to the North of England, taking Newcastle-upon-Tyne. In 1641 the King created Leslie, Earl of Leven and Lord Balgonie. Leslie then commanded the Scottish Army in the English Civil War, entering England with 3,000

*Continued on page 17*

## Balgonie Castle, *continued from page 16*

Horse and 10,000 Foot. He had his own Regiments, the Earl of Leven's Life Guard of Horse and the Earl of Leven's Lifeguard of Foot. These were Regular regiments in the Scottish Army, wearing red uniforms. He commanded the entire Parliamentary Army at the battle of Marston Moor, 1644.

In May 1646 the King surrendered to Leslie, knowing that he would be treated properly. It is on record that they played Golf together. Leslie was going to bring the King up to Scotland but his political masters forced him to hand the King over to Cromwell. He was so appalled at this intervention that he tried to resign from the Scottish Army. His resignation was refused, so he returned to Scotland, giving effective command of the Army to Lieutenant General David Leslie, later Lord Newark.

In 1650 The Scottish Army sided with Charles II. Leslie was still in nominal command of the Army but David Leslie was in effective command. It was the intervention of the political and religious masters of the Army that led to the defeat at the battle of Dunbar. Leslie was a good age by now, so when the Scottish Army entered England, to be defeated at Worcester, he remained in Scotland raising and training the reserve Army. He was captured outside Alyth by General Monk, initially imprisoned at Broughty Castle before being shipped to the Tower of London. Queen Christina of Sweden intervened, asking Cromwell to release her old friend. Leslie returned to Balgonie via Sweden, to thank the Queen.

In spite of his active life, Leslie died in his own bed at Balgonie on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 1661. He was buried "in his ain aisle" in Markinch Church following a midnight torchlight procession on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Leslie's son and heir, Colonel Lord Balgonie, had died from wounds sustained at Marston Moor. He was therefore succeeded by his grandson, who was only Earl for three years. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl left two infant daughters, who were made wards of John, Earl (later Duke) of Rothes.

In 1666, the Earl of Rothes ordered the building of a Skale and Plat Tower between the Great

Tower and Hall house. This was built by Robert Milne of Balfarg, 7<sup>th</sup> Hereditary King's Master Mason for Scotland.

Margaret, Countess of Leven, married the Hon. Francis Montgomery of Giffen. He was a wastrel who bankrupted the Balgonie Estates. They had no children so Margaret was succeeded by her sister Catharine, Countess of Leven, who died unmarried. The Earldom passed to David, son of George 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Melville and Lady Catherine Leslie (sister of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Leven). David had spent his early life in the Netherlands, at the Court of William of Orange. He had been appointed a Colonel at the age of 21.

The new Earl of Leven returned to Britain with William. In 1689 he raised a Regiment in Edinburgh, within two hours of recruiting. This Regiment was called Leven's Regiment, then the Edinburgh Regiment, then the 25<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot, eventually becoming The King's Own Scottish Borderers, who, along with all of Scotland's Noble Regiments, went out of existence in 2006, through the short sightedness of an unthinking Government.

Leven's Regiment first saw action at the Battle of Killiecrankie, opposing Bonnie Dundee. It is interesting to note that the Viscount of Dundee and Earl of Leven both descended from the Lundin of Balgonie family, so they were distant cousins. This was also the first battle to use a new weapon of mass destruction, the Bayonet!

The Earl of Leven went on to become General Officer Commanding Scotland and Master Gunner of Scotland. He was also Governor of Edinburgh Castle and the first Governor of the Bank of Scotland, as well as first Secretary of State for Scotland. He spent much of his life trying to reclaim money owed him by the Government (the wages for his Regiment had come out of his own pocket).

He built the last addition to Balgonie in 1702, a three story section of the East wing. This was built by James Smith of Whitehill, Surveyor of the Royal Works, who had recently built his master-

*Continued on page 23*

# COLOURING BOOK OF CELTIC LANDS

Presented by the Northern Arizona Celtic Heritage Society  
PO Box 187  
Flagstaff, AZ 86002

[www.nachs.info](http://www.nachs.info)

Permission is hereby given to use the enclosed material in any educational way you feel appropriate.  
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The Northern Arizona Celtic Heritage Society is dedicated to presenting, promoting and preserving Celtic culture. We have created and gathered many fun and educational activities for kids that we would like to share. If you would like to use these activities we ask that you acknowledge the Northern Arizona Celtic Heritage Society.

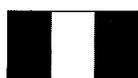
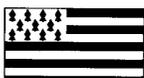
Our coloring book of Celtic lands will be shared one region at a time. There are a total of 10 pages including a map page at the beginning and a final page with information about Celtic crosses. We hope you enjoy our book!

*OK, young ones!  
Here is a page just for you!*

CELTIC REGIONS
ASTURIAS
BRITTANY
CORNWALL
GALICIA
IRELAND
ISLE OF MAN
SCOTLAND
WALES



1. Draw a line to connect the name of the Celtic region to its place on the map. (There are clues inside this coloring book).
2. Draw a line from the flag at the bottom of the page to the correct region. (There are clues inside this coloring book.)





25th & 26th July  
Holyrood Park

## Newsletter from The Gathering 2009

*The Gathering 2009 would like to wish you all a happy St Andrews Day! Winter has very much taken hold of Edinburgh now. With the sun setting at 3:45pm and the temperature dropping dramatically we're all wrapping up warm in our winter woollies. This is of no worry to Lord Sempill, however, who is currently basking in the Australian sunshine as he performs his duties as guest of honour at Sydney Scottish Week!*

### **Our Royal Patron**

*We are proud to announce that the Chief of Chiefs himself, His Royal Highness Prince Charles, is to be patron of The Gathering 2009. You can read more about this and other press articles relating the Gathering 2009 on our press page.*

### **Clan Tents**

*Clan tents are an integral part of any Highland Games, providing an information point for those interested in joining an organisation as well as being a place for clan members to meet up and socialise.*

*Clan societies, families, Scottish societies and other Scottish related organizations are all welcome to apply for a clan tent. Application forms can be downloaded from the clan tent page on our website. Please note that registration does not guarantee a tent.*

### **Travel & Accommodation**

*Well, many of you seem to be ahead of the game! Cashel Travel has sold out their allocation at two hotels in Edinburgh so far and more hotels are filling up fast. All six travel providers listed on our site have been taking regular enquiries about the event and will be more than happy to help with any enquiries you have. For more information see the Travel and Accommodation page on our website.*

*We are also progressing well with the idea of a 'Gathering Cruise' from North America to Edinburgh and will be able to give you more details in the New Year. News of the possible cruise was featured this week in the Scotsman newspaper. See our press page for the full article.*

### **Stone Mountain Highland Games**

*Take a look at our new online video which captures our trip to the Stone Mountain Highland Games in Atlanta, Georgia. This allows you to see an excellently-run Highland games in action and to meet some of the people who are hoping to join us in 2009. We'd also like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to the organisers who showed us such fantastic hospitality.*

### **B r o c h u r e**

*If you would like printed information about The Gathering 2009 to share with others you can download a brochure from our website in pdf format suitable for printing. The download can be found on the 'About The Gathering 2009' page.*

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# Tourist? Traveler? Touron?

Marti Van Horne, Scots Travel Specialist



With the British Pound hovering around \$2.00 it makes you think twice about travel plans for the UK in the coming season. One way to determine if you can make the trip without breaking the bank is to consider a cruise. Since they are paid for in US dollars you know what the bulk of the trip will cost prior to departure and you can then estimate what drinks and sightseeing will cost.

**Holland America** is offering Celtic Kingdoms on July 3; it starts in Amsterdam and goes to Newcastle, Rosyth (Edinburgh) Invergordon and then hops back and forth between Ireland and England. Guernsey, in the Channel Islands, is the last stop before the trip terminates at Dover, the port for London. This is a 14 day trip and oceanview cabins start at approximately \$4000.00 plus tax per person and air is extra.

**Princess Cruises** has 4 departures starting June 7 for a trip around the British Isles. This 12 day cruise is round trip from London and stops at Gurnsey , Cork, Dublin and Belfast in Ireland then makes stops for Glasgow, Inverness and Edinburgh in Scotland The

last stop is at LeHarve for Normandy or a day in Paris. Oceanview cabins start at approximately \$2,700.00 plus tax and airfare.

On August 29th **Silversea** has a London round trip with the first two nights on board the ship at the Tower Bridge before sailing to Cork, Dublin and Belfast in Ireland. Next it sails to Stornoway in the Hebrides, Kirkwall in Orkney, then Invergordon, and Leith for Edinburgh then a relaxing day at sea before heading back for a last night in London. All the cabins on this luxury ship are oceanview. Fares start at approximately \$12,000.00 per person plus tax and air fare. Some early booking discounts are available.

**Lindblad Expeditions** has 6 departures, May through August, that start in either Kyle of Lochalsh or Inverness and sail one way through the Heart of the Highlands on a 48 passenger luxury yacht, Lord of the Glens. You will see Loch Ness, the Caledonian Canal, Glencoe, Oban, and the Inner Hebrides Islands of Mull, Iona, Eigg, and Skye. This allows you to take a few days on either end of the cruise to enjoy some land time. They say this is 12 days and 10 nights, and I'm not sure how they do that but prices start at around \$6000.00 per person plus tax and air fare. They have two other options, a 13 day trip starting with 2 nights in Edinburgh with a drive up to Inverness to start the cruise. There is also a 16 day with more of a focus on The Orkneys with prices starting around \$9000.00 per person.

**Norwegian Cruise Lines** offers the Jade on July 13 starting in London and going to Le Harve for Normandy/Paris, then on to Cork, Dublin and Belfast in Ireland. Ports for Glasgow, Inverness and Edinburgh in Scotland then on to Amsterdam and Brugge Belgium. This 13 day trip runs about \$3000.00 per person plus tax and air fare.

As you can see there are choices for every budget and for casual or elegant cruising.

Check with your travel agent for other options and happy planning.

Marti Van Horne at Maupin Travel Sutton Square-North Raleigh 919-876-9101x1202 phoneor 919-876-4644-fax www.maupintravel.com

# Queries! Queries! Queries!

Free, just send your information to  
[bethscribble@aol.com](mailto:bethscribble@aol.com)

Would like to find **THOMAS FRANKLIN CHILDERS** of Marietta OH. Came to KY in late 1800s married **MATILDA BRENT**. Email [Mae943@bellsouth.net](mailto:Mae943@bellsouth.net)

Do you have a way for me to connect with people researching **BARTHOLOMEW CHILDRESS** b. 1803 in NC? **Bill Childress**. Email - [billchil@yahoo.com](mailto:billchil@yahoo.com)

Looking for proof of **ARCHIBALD BOYD** having at least 15 children. My family Bible has **ARCHIBALD BOYD'S** death on October 20, 1895; he married **SUSANNAH PARNELL** on June 10, 1854 (some family tree sites have 1855). My great grandfather, **JESSE DONALD BOYD** was born on April 8, 1882 and married 1st **LYDIA ANNIE MOORE** on Sept 30, 1906 and she gave birth to 2 sons and then **JESSE** re-married to **ETHEL LEAN BURBA** 1883-1968 buried in Tulsa, OK whose father was **BENJAMIN H. BURBA** 1857-1923 buried in Tulsa, OK. I need info on any **BURBA'S** also. The interesting part of the **JOHN BOYD** paper is, it has 2 of his sons w/ the last name of Parnell (spelled **PARNEL**) that's the same maiden name of **SUSANNAH**. **JOHN BOYD'S** paper reads like this:  
**JOHN BOYD** was born April 18, 1819 and died July 5, 1860. **MALINDA BOYD** was born August 25th, 1818 and died April 9, 1860 (I'm assuming this is **JOHN'S** wife). **JAMES CALVIN PARNEL** (spelled wrong possibly) was born June 19, 1839. **SETH EDWARD PARNEL** was born March 12th, 1841.

**WILLIAM WESLEY BOYD** was born April 14th, 1844. **ELIZABETH BOYD** was born January 5th, 1846. **MELVINA BOYD** was born March 25th, 1848. **MARY ELEN BOYD** was born December 5th, 1849. **JOHN HENRY BOYD** was born April 8th, 1853 and died September \_\_\_ 1856. Note: On the back of this paper it reads: **SARAH JANE BOYD** was born August 15th, 1851 and died August 1st, 1852. **CHRISTENA BOYD** was born April 13th, 1855. **JOSIAH BOYD** was born April 12th, 1851. **RICHARD JOSHUA BOYD** was born April 9th, 1860 and died September 7th, 1860. Note: According to the bible it is as follows: (but first a note... we found my grandfather's birth certificate and it states that **JESSE DONALD BOYD** was from Arkansas and his mother from Texas.) **ARCHIBALD BOYD** born March 26th, 1809. **SUSANNAH (PARNELL) BOYD** born Oct 10, 1835. **JAMES BISHOP** Jan 21, 1853. **JOSHUA BOYD** Feb 1, 1855. **RILEY BOYD** Feb 11, 1856. **GEORGE G. W. BOYD** Nov 5, 1858. Abraham Boyd Oct 8, 1860. **MALON BOYD** Oct 30, 1862. **SAMUEL BOYD** Oct 5, 1864. **COREY BOYD** May 13, 1866. **WILLIAM BOYD** March 1, 1869. **MINNIE BOYD** Sept 25, 1871. **DONALD BOYD** Nov 19, 1873. **JESSE DONALD BOYD** April 8, 1882. **NONA BELL BOYD** Dec 23, 1873. **ELANOR (JONES** possibly maiden name, it's not clear) **BOYD** May 8, 1874 and died Feb 20, 1883. The bible goes on to lists the deaths. If anyone needs this info, please let me know. **Dawn M. Orwig, PO Box 221, Talala, OK 74080** or email me at [Belle19169@aol.com](mailto:Belle19169@aol.com)

## ANNOUNCING Dream Catcher Publishing Releases

### THE DEAL A Novel by Dwan G. Hightower



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Dwan G. Hightower lives in Atlanta, Georgia where she is pursuing many interests, which include spending time with her grandchildren, reading, researching her Scottish and Cherokee heritage, and completing her sixth novel.

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**Balgonie Castle, continued from page 17**

piece, Melville House (for the 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Melville). This was built in a more comfortable style, larger windows, in equal rows, with thinner walls to allow more internal space. However, there was still an eye on defence as the lower windows were furnished with iron bars.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl had the surrounding lands turned into 350 acres of Parks and gardens, almost forming a perfect rectangle. This work included an 11acre walled garden, which in turn was divided in to two. The northern half was a formal laid out garden with a spectacular sundial as a centre piece dated 1696. The sundial was removed in 1824 and taken to Melville house where it sat in the centre of the entrance court. During the Second World War Melville was used as a special training centre by the Army. Unfortunately the sundial was used for target practice and only the base remains to-

day. The work carried out to the castle between 1635 and 1702 had transformed Balgonie from a medieval castle in to an Earl's Palace.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of January 1716, Rob Roy MacGregor, whilst ransacking Falkland Palace, learnt that General Cadogan was going to garrison Balgonie. So he decided to come here first. He came via Leslie, where he got a rough reception, then to Markinch, where he fought a running battle through the streets, capturing twenty Hanoverians (mainly Swiss mercenaries) and marched on Balgonie. The Earl was in Edinburgh at the time, so there would have only been a few servants in the castle. Rob Roy walked into the castle unopposed, with 150 to 200 men. He clearly went through the wine cellar, as we are constantly picking up pieces of broken bottles that have been

*Continued on page 24*



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## Balgonie Castle, *continued from page 23*

strewn all over the castle and surrounding area. We do not know how long the MacGregors were here but probably only a few days. The Earl wrote to the government demanding £2,000 compensation for the damage that had been done to Balgonie. With the death of his father, the Earldoms of Leven and Melville were united, although it was not until the 7<sup>th</sup> Earl that they were styled Earl of Leven and Melville. This was out of protest, when the Scottish Statesman Henry Dundass was elevated to the Peerage, taking the title Viscount of Melville (after his home, Melville Castle).

One notable American visitor to Balgonie was Dr Benjamin Rush from Philadelphia. He did his medical training at Edinburgh University, then the world leader in medicine. He became friendly with the family and would spend his holidays at Balgonie Castle, where he said "It was here that I first saw true domestic happiness in its highest perfection." He twice proposed to one of the Earl's daughters and was twice rebuffed. Rush went on to found the first purpose built Hospital in America and the first, post Revolution, College. He was also a Signatory of the Declaration of Independence and served on General Washington's Staff during the War of Independence.

The Hon. William Leslie was the second son of the Earl of Leven. William was commissioned in to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of Foot, The Black Watch (which was also the Regiment that the future Duke of Wellington was also commissioned in to). He then bought a Captaincy in the 17<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January 1777, William was killed at the Battle of Princeton, where his body was placed on the communal pyre.

On discovering his friend's death, Rush told Washington about his experience in Scotland and about how well he had been treated by his friend's family. Washington was so moved that he ordered the body to be taken off the communal pyre, to be buried with full military Honours at Washington's expense.

Another revolution happened towards the end of the century, this time in France. Britain had a small standing Army so to combat the threat of

invasion, the Government passed the Militia Act in 1797. The Militia was to be raised by ballot divided between the Parishes. The problem was that it was a secret ballot where each Deputy Lieutenant held the list of all eligible men in his area. On the 21<sup>st</sup> of August a mob of several hundred people descended upon Balbirnie House, seat of John Balfour of Balbirnie, DL, to demand his list. By the time that the mob came to Balgonie, there were more than one thousand. Lord Balgonie, DL, was also forced to hand over his list, but, only after the threat to burn down Balgonie.

The Riot Act was read and the ring-leaders arrested. James Ramsay, son of Alexander Ramsay, Baron Officer of Balgonie, was sentenced to one year in the Tollbooth of Edinburgh, and to keep the peace for a further three years. John Christie, a tenant, was transported for seven years with the proviso that if he returned before that time he would be executed "without benefit of Clergy". The following year, Lord Balgonie was appointed Lieutenant Colonel of the 5<sup>th</sup> Fife Militia.

By the end on the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Earl of Leven was in financial difficulties. In 1800, the Earl established the Leven Iron Works but this venture failed. In 1824, the 8<sup>th</sup> Earl sold Balgonie to Sir James Balfour of Whittingham, MP, for the astronomical sum of £109,000. Sir James was the son of John Balfour of Balbirnie (the Balfours of Balbirnie also descend from Sibbald of Balgonie). He was also the grand father of Arthur J. Balfour, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl Balfour, and Prime Minister 1902-05.

Sir James gave Balgonie to his second son Charles Balfour of Newton Don. The Balfours bought Balgonie as an investment as the estate was capable of producing vast quantities of coal. The Castle was abandoned to fall in to decay. By the 1840s there were letters appearing in the Edinburgh Newspapers, concerned at the rate that Balgonie was deteriorating. The stone floors were concreted in 1912, and plans were drawn up to restore Balgonie.

It was at this time that a human skeleton was discovered under the floor of the Great Hall.

*Continued on page 25*

## Balgonie Castle, *continued from page 24*

In 1922, the smaller half of the East Range was restored to be the Estate Office. During the Second World War the castle was used for exercises by the Home Guard and elements of the 1<sup>st</sup> Polish Airborne Division. The one artefact that we have found from this period is a .303 Drill Round.

The estate office was abandoned in the 1950s, then followed two decades of vandalism, which destroyed the last of the 17<sup>th</sup>C/ plaster ceilings and the Gate House, which had been almost complete in 1961. In 1950 the Estate was sold to the Balgonie Colliery Company, later renamed the Balgonie Estate Ltd.

In 1971, the Castle was sold to David Maxwell, from Edinburgh. He carried out restoration to the Tower. He also oversaw an archaeological excavation in the Courtyard. One of the discoveries was the well, however, this was filled in again after the dig. We bought Balgonie in 1985 and began the slow restoration process. We re-uncovers the well and rebuilt the wellhead. We also deforested the ruins and cleared several hundreds of tons of rubble, taking care to preserve the usable stone. The Chapel was restored in 1989 and the 900<sup>th</sup> wedding took place in May 2007.

The Great Hall was restored back to what it would have looked like in the Middle Ages. The aim is to restore the Hall house, East Range and Gate House back to their former glory.

### Overseas connections

The Varmlands Brigade in the Swedish Army carries on the Honours of the Varmlands Regiment (1622 – 2000), raised by the then Colonel Alexander Leslie for King Gustavus Adolphus.

Sir Alexander Stuart was the first Premier of New South Wales in Australia. He was born in Milton of Balgonie, where his family owned the Flax Mill. Part of the town of Wollongong, NSW, is called Balgonie in his honour.

The Town of Balgonie in Saskatchewan, Canada, was named after the Castle in the late 19<sup>th</sup>C. It celebrated it's Centenary of gaining Town status in August 2007. In 1993 the town was granted a Coat of Arms by the Chief Herald of

Canada. These Arms incorporate the Arms of Sibbald of Balgonie and Morris of Balgonie.

The Chilean Navy have a ship called "Sibbald" which is named after an early hero of the Chilean Navy. All Sibbalds descend from Sibbald of Balgonie. Another renowned Sibbald in Scotland was Sir Robert Sibbald of Kipps. He founded the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh. He was also Physician to Charles II and James VII and Geographer Royal for Scotland. He was also a noted author of scientific books and the first definitive history of Fife.

### Artistic Balgonie

The tune "Lord Balgonie's Favourite" was recorded by the renowned Neil Gow as an old "Highland Air". This tune is now better known as the theme tune of the highly acclaimed film "The Piano".

"General Leslie's March to Long Marston Moor" is an old song which commemorates to battle of Marston Moor, 1644. The music to this song is "Blue Bonnets o'er the Border", which was also the Regimental March of the King's Own Scottish Borderers, which was coincidentally raised by Leslie's great grandson.

The pipe tune "Raymond Morris of Balgonie and Eddergoll March" was composed by John Winton, Piper to the Laird of Balgonie.

The pipe tune "Salute to the Stewart" received its World Premier at Balgonie in 1998.

The epic and Shakespearian poem "The Maid of Balgonie" was published in 1842, all thirty eight verses of it.

The poem "Balgonie Castle" by John Ball, Bard to the Laird of Balgonie, was published in an anthology of contemporary Scottish Poets.

"The Balgonie Birdman" is an animation produced by the Film Board of Canada. It is the true story of Balgonie resident Bill Gibson, who tries to be the first Canadian to fly. An unfortunate accident means that he becomes the second Canadian to fly.

The magnificent timbered roof of the Parliament Hall in Edinburgh is made from Balgonie Oak, gifted to the Parliament by the 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Leven.

# Royal patron for clan gathering

Prince Charles is to be patron of the biggest clan gathering in Edinburgh for almost 190 years.

More than 8,000 clansmen and clanswomen from around the globe will come together in Edinburgh for The Gathering in the Holyrood Park in July 2009.

It will be the first time since Sir Walter Scott's Royal Pageant in 1822 that so many clans have assembled in the city.

The event will be held as part of the Homecoming Scotland celebrations.

The programme will feature the 2009 World Highland Games Heavy Events Championship and an International Gathering of Scottish Clans and Families.

A parade of the clans up the Royal Mile will culminate in a spectacular pageant on the esplanade of Edinburgh Castle.

There will also be a strong focus on traditional Highland Games, with solo piping and Highland dancing competitions, and there will be opportunities for people to research clan histories and genealogy.

Jamie Sempill, director of The Gathering 2009, said it was a "great honour" for the event to have Prince Charles as patron.

He added: "His presence will mean so much to all those who have travelled from overseas to take part in this unique gathering, which celebrates the clans' contribution to the history and culture of Scotland.

"It is important to remember that the renaissance of Highland games and clan gatherings can largely be attributed to Queen Victoria's patronage and her love of the Highlands with all its traditions.

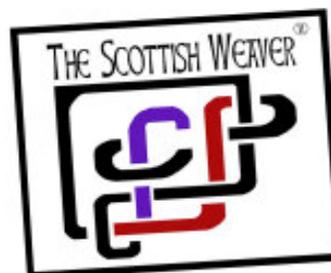
"However, as the Duke of Rothesay and the Lord of the Isles, the Prince of Wales represents a far older connection between the monarchy and the clans of Scotland.

"Therefore it is only right and fitting that the  
*Continued on page 28*



*Prince Charles to be patron of The Gathering in 2009*

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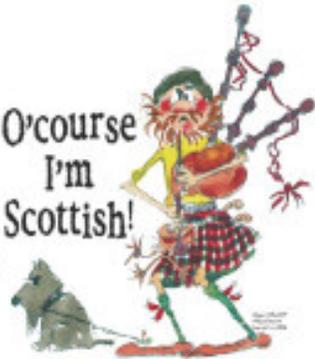


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# Flowers of the Forest

Clan MacMillan reports that one of their most faithful members, **Blanche Shannon** of Florida, passed away recently. She had been a member of the MacMillan group since before 1985. She died just five days before her 89th birthday.

**Bryan Tompkin Owens**, age 45, died during emergency surgery in Alaska. Mr. Owens was the son of Joan and Ken Owens, Clan MacMillan members. He was also the brother, Dr. Stuart Owens who is a South Carolina Convener for the MacMillans.



**Stephanie Sutton**, daughter of Edie and Walt

Sutton, Clan MacMillan members, died recently. She had serious health problems for some years, but her death was unexpected.

## Royal patron for The Gathering,

*continued from page 26*

greatest gathering of clans and chiefs ever to be held should be honoured by the presence of the chief of chiefs.”

Homecoming Scotland is being held by the Scottish Government during 2009 to honour the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns by showcasing Scottish culture.

The Clan Stewart Society reports that **Col. Barton Fellows, Walker, Master Sergeant Robert H. Boyd, Stuart Hunter Shipper** and CSSA Vice President **Donald L. Macleay** have died recently.

**Julie Elie-Gagnon** of N. Chelmsford, MA died this fall after a long illness. She was very active in Clan Donald USA.



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## ANNOUNCING Dream Catcher Publishing Releases

### THE DEAL A Novel by Dwan G. Hightower



In Washington D.C., a beautiful, blonde socialite is brutally murdered by strangers. In Billings, Montana the offices of an assayer of land development and mines are bombed. In Stockton County all the old played-out mines are being bought by a mining firm that is working with NASA but allegedly has the backing of a domestic militant group. Three separate events—all linked by intrigue and suspense, plots and counterplots.

Special agent Denise Gibson is once again thrown into an investigation of domestic Bioterrorism. This time the deaths hit close to home and involve close friends. It will take all of her willpower to handle the alleged corrupt Senator with kidd gloves. Working with her friend Officer Terry Leaphorn of the Napwap Reservation they will try to prove that their two best friends are innocent of all charges. Until, at last, she

comes face to face with the real group of terrorists and the members of it whom she has known all her life.



#### Book Signing for Dwan Hightower author of *The Deal*

Visions Bank and Dream Catcher Publishing sponsored a book signing for Dwan G. Hightower, author of her new release *The Deal*. Dwan has also had *Anthrax: The Game* published in 2002.

NPR held a meet and greet for the local community to thank all of their clients and to meet the people who support their local station and NPR. Frank Sundram, the general manager of the radio station WKGC welcome guests and Margie McCoy did the interviews with Dwan G. Hightower.

Other authors attending the book signing and participating were: Joel Strait, Sim Shattuck, Robert Emerson, Beverly Mount-Douds and Dawn Radford.

Many local friends and readers attended to get signed copies of the books. Shirley Roe, owner of AllBooks Review visited from Canada to meet the authors and enjoy the days celebration. The book signing and reception was held at the Palm Tree Book Store in Port St. Joe, Florida.

Visit [www.dreamcatcherpublishing.net](http://www.dreamcatcherpublishing.net) for upcoming book signings for Ms. Hightower and all of the authors.

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