



Volume 1, Number 4

Section 3

September 2007

## Dr. Horace Loftin retires from Henderson genealogy position

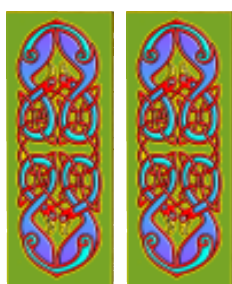
Just a few months ago, Dr. Horace Loftin notified the president of the Clan Henderson Society that it was time he retired from his position as Clan Henderson genealogist. Horace had held the position for nineteen years.

The decision was based on issues including recent favorable results from DNA study. He felt that there was every opportunity of a breakthrough in his own genealogy and needed the time to complete his own family research.

During his tenure as genealogist, he served a term of president of the Clan Henderson Society, was the Chief's Order recipient in 1992, the Chief's Prize in 2003 and the Claude Henderson Award in 1994.

Dr. Loftin also wrote a column in *An Canach*, the quarterly newsletter of The Clan Henderson Society of the United States of America - for the last 19 years.

*Continued on page 8*



## USS Scottish Festival Returns to Orange County Fairgrounds Memorial Day Weekend 2008

The United Scottish Society of Southern California (USS) is pleased to announce the Annual Scottish Festival will return to the Orange County Fairgrounds (OCF) in 2008.

After careful consideration of the options, we believe the best choice has been selected to continue the event's growth and success. Both OCF and USS look forward to the renewed relationship. We hope you welcome the 2008 venue choice as input from

vendors, participants and spectators was considered in the decision.

Many of the attributes we've enjoyed in the past return such as camping on-site, free general parking, cooler weather, and a great facility. OCF has made facility enhancements that will benefit the festival including: improvement to the outdoor layout and atmosphere by removing buildings, updating

*Continued on page 8*



Clachnaben from the Cairn o' Mount Road  
Photograph by Duncan Peet



Would you like to see more of Scotland?

For video coverage of the World Pipe Band Championships, Scotland's largest Highland Games at Cowal, and much more besides.

For free

Just log on to

[www.scotlandontv.tv](http://www.scotlandontv.tv)

Scotland on TV is a web TV channel showing programmes about Scotland and all things Scottish over the Internet. Broadcasting classic shows from the stv archive as well as made-for-web TV programmes, Scotland on TV has something for everyone who loves Scotland and its heritage.



#### Scenery

Loch An Eilian  
by Aviemore



#### Piping

The World Pipe Band Championships



#### Food

classic Scottish recipes



#### Scottish Dancing

From the Tulloch Inverness Highland Games



#### Classic stv programmes

from the archive, such as Weir's Way



#### Sport

Spey 2007 Orienteering

Keep in touch  
with Scotland,  
wherever you  
are in the  
world

[www.scotlandontv.tv](http://www.scotlandontv.tv)



The Isle of Mull, 2005

# Scotland on TV

A bit about us...

Scotland on TV is a 24/7 TV channel on the web, where you can watch programmes about Scotland when you want to watch them – for free! All it takes is a broadband connection and our web address: [www.scotlandontv.tv](http://www.scotlandontv.tv)

We work out of stv's (Scottish Television) state-of-the-art broadcasting centre beside the Clyde - Pacific Quay - in Glasgow. When we first launched last year, we carried some classic shows from the stv archive, such as *Weir's Way*, *Take the High Road* and Craig Ferguson as the *Dirt Detective*. But now, with over 40% of our audience coming from the USA and Canada, we're producing our own content especially for the global audience which is interested in all things Scottish.

We're a team of just six and over the last few months we've covered everything from bagpipe manufacturers to highland games, and videos of Scottish landscapes to new visitor attractions such as the Falkirk Wheel. We have also worked with the National Trust for Scotland covering the progress on their new visitor centre which is currently being built at Culloden Battlefield and their fundraising initiative for memorial stones which will form the Culloden Walk.

For viewers who want to know about Scottish cooking, we have weekly recipes and newshounds can give their fix of daily Scottish news as we upload stv's new bulletins every day. And, every week, we keep on producing new content which people

can access at a time which suits them.

## Scotland on TV at the World Pipe Band Championships



The subjects and events that we cover are getting bigger and better and earlier this month we covered the World Pipe Band Championships on Glasgow Green. The weather was just awful – torrential rain and wind blowing a gale, which made it all the more difficult for the competitors, as well as playing havoc with the team's cameras. This is Scotland however, so torrential rain failed to dampen the spirits of the thousands in attendance. The event was a

huge and resoundingly loud success although the drum majors had to be extra careful when throwing their batons into the air, and quite a few people had caked mud on their sporrans!

The 'Worlds' marked the end of an absolute piping fest for Glasgow. All week long it felt like the whole of Glasgow was vibrating to the sound of bagpipes and drums! You couldn't turn a corner or walk through a public park without hearing the sound of the pipes.

The 'Worlds' isn't just about the pipes and drums, of course. There were the Highland Dancing and Heavy Athletics competitions too. But the final March Past was a thing of wonder with over 200 massed Pipe Bands gathered on Glasgow Green main-field. The massed pipers showed all the poise, note-perfect precision playing and militaristic Caledonian-coutured finery that you'd expect from

*Continued on page 10*



# Scottish Highland Heavy Athletics - *A true Walker family affair*

---

Jim Walker

---

From the quiet glens and groves of ancient Scotland comes one of the most physically demanding and technically challenging sports in existence today.

Scottish Highland Heavy Athletics. It's origins shrouded in mystery and obscured through the mists of time, the Highland Games Heavy athletic events remain one of the most popular of all athletic competitions in the world. Highland Games and Gatherings are held every year in hundreds of cities across the United States and in dozens of foreign countries. Over 900 athletes are ranked on the NASGA (North American Scottish Games Athletics) website. [www.nasgaweb.com/main.asp](http://www.nasgaweb.com/main.asp)

The games make a perfect venue for family fun, whether you all compete or just come to watch Mom or Dad throw really heavy things! For some it is the smells and taste of good Scottish cooking. Others are drawn to the games for the wonderful bands, the exemplary Highland Dancers, the costumed reinactors, a chance to wear the Kilt, the dog trials, or to search the Clan tents for their family's origins and celebrate their culture. There is something for every member of the family to enjoy through simply watching or in exciting participation in the celebrations of our ancestors.

For the Walker family, it is all that and a chance to challenge themselves in this most difficult sport. What started out as a casual trip to learn about their ancestors has led the entire Walker family to become staunch competitors on the modern field of battle. In an atmosphere of friendship and support they travel all over California in pursuit of Scottish athletic competition and the camaraderie of the field. Husband Jim was even blessed last year to compete in the Masters World Championships in Bugt Park; Inverness Scotland The Walker family consists of husband Jim, wife Heather, and sons Brian and Blake (Nicholson). Six-month-old Audrey Rose enjoys the

Games from the sidelines.

Why would a family spend several weekends each year traveling all over the state to compete in one of the toughest athletic competitions in the world you ask?

Certainly the personal challenges of the games is an irresistible draw. Throwing Highland weights requires incredible strength, balance, and skill. Each competition represents a new chance to test their inner and physical strengths to the maximum. But, it is the people they compete against and the wonderful people at the Games that keeps drawing them back.

Heather Walker states, "None of the other sports I have ever competed in comes close to matching the experience I get at the Highland Games. We dress in our ancestors' kilts, compete against some of the best athletes in the world, and get to listen to the pipes play all day long!"

Jim and Heather have been competitive all their lives playing all manner of highly competitive sports. But they always felt pretty much alone in the fiercely competitive atmosphere. Heather comments: "when I have competed before it was always every man for themselves."

Husband Jim adds, "Heather and I have participated in competitive athletics in one form or another all our lives. Whether its softball, football, golf, basketball, tennis, you name it, we have enjoyed it.

After 48 years of competing I can tell you with assurance that there is no more enjoyable or supportive athletic atmosphere than on the Highland Games Heavy Athletics field of competition. From the first time I threw the Braemar stone I knew this was a great place for a family to be. "

"I walked onto the field at my first competition as a complete novice. This was not a baseball field or a sport I had played since childhood. I did not even know most of the rules or regulations. The men surrounding me all looked like a master Greek marble

*Continued on page 5*

carver sculpted their muscles. I half expected to see Hercules there in a kilt. And actually, some of the competitors are what we would expect the wild Scottish warriors of old to look like. Massive and strong.

After seeing the Pro athletes throw a 25-pound stone across the field like a football, I knew I was WAY out of my league. But this was not your typical competitive situation. I was not standing on the sidelines for more than 5 minutes when throwing legend 'Wild' Billy Butler came and introduced himself to me. He welcomed me and offered to help me in any way he could. I thought My skepticism turned to joy as surprisingly help was offered by Billy and several other competitors at every single event. One particular incident sticks in my mind as an example of just how honorable and supportive these athletes are with everyone that comes out. I must have been quite the sight when my attempts to throw the Braemar stone landed me on my back on the ground two times in a row. Billy approached me chuckling with a grin from ear to ear. Now, if this were any other competition, that smile would have meant the athlete was on his way to 'psych me out' since his throws were only beating me by a few inches.

To my surprise, Billy put his arm around my shoulder and told me exactly what I was doing wrong. Sure enough, I made the correction and went on to beat Wild Bill. Now, you tell me in any other sport

where an athlete will, in the middle of a heated competition, tell ANYONE how to improve their performance in a way that would surly result in a loss for themselves!

After three years of competing I continue to benefit from the guidance of almost every athlete on the field!

The Pleasanton Highland Games in Pleasanton California, approximately 40 miles south of San Francisco, has been hosted by the Caledonian Club of San Francisco since 1866. [www.caledonian.org/athleticsinfo.html](http://www.caledonian.org/athleticsinfo.html) The Caledonian Club of San Francisco believes that their Scottish gathering and games is the longest-running entertainment event or festival in California. Depending on the year they will host upwards of 60,000 people and draw athletes from all over the world. In years past it has been recognized as the largest games in the world.

Out of the ten or so games in Northern California each year, about a third of them will have athletic events for the kids. Besides the Caber toss, they often have egg and sack races and even a Haggis toss to test the little one's skills!

Seven-year-old Blake smiles when he sees the ribbon he won for 1st place in the egg race at the Fresno California games, and eleven year old Brian placed 2nd in the Caber toss. Even six-year-old

*Continued on page 6*

**An offer to everyone...If you have results from Scottish Highland Athletics, just send them to [bethscribble@aol.com](mailto:bethscribble@aol.com) and they will be published in the upcoming issue. FREE! Color photos are welcome too! FREE!**

grandson Skyler Haworth got into the spirit by helping Grandpa Jim win the 2007 Northern California Weight-Over-Bar championship in Campbell this June with his heartfelt cheering and support!

### **The Events and a little History**

Unlike most individual sports today, Olympic caliber Scottish Highland Heavy Events athletes must participate in all eight events in order to compete. This requires Herculean strength nearly year-round training in all the events as well as strength, speed, and agility work.

Competitions usually begin as the festivals open for spectators at around nine in the morning and often end well after three o'clock in the afternoon.

The eight events are: Open stone throw, Braemar stone throw, Light Hammer, Heavy Hammer, Light Weight for distance, Heavy weight for distance, the Weight-Over-bar, and the Caber Toss. ( for an excellent explanation of each event including pictures, visit the Caledonian Club of San Francisco's website at: [www.caledonian.org/athleticsinfo.html](http://www.caledonian.org/athleticsinfo.html) )

An example of the physical demands of this sport is the weight-over-bar event. The Master athlete picks up a round forty-two pound iron weight suspended from a six inch chain with one hand and facing away from a raised bar almost directly over his / her head, throws it up over the horizontal bar. Forty-two pounds may not sound like much until you realize it weighs the same as a five-gallon paint can filled with water! The current Masters (over 50) world record is over eighteen feet high set in Woodland California in 2005 by exemplary Masters athlete Jeff Loosle.

A common topic of conversation on the field, especially among the Masters is what techniques are

used to heal the many different kinds of injuries that often accompany participation. Every part of the men and women's bodies are stressed to the maximum every time athletes throw in every event. In three years of competing, Jim has suffered debilitating rotator cuff, back, leg, arm and hand injuries.

Two of the most difficult events are held at the end of the day to provide competitors with a true test to their athletic endurance and for the larger crowds at that time of day. The weight-over-bar (WOB) and Caber Toss come at the time of day when most of the athletes have used up much of their muscle strength and endurance. The WOB requires balance and total body strength to throw a 42-pound weight 14 feet almost straight up in the air. The Caber Toss requires exact timing and agility to flip the punishingly heavy 18 foot-long, one hundred pound wooden pole a full 360-degree turn with accuracy. In most competitions, only about ten percent of the competitors can turn the caber completely over.



### **History of the Scottish Highland Heavy Athletics and Highland Games**

Scotland is historically well known for its superior battle warriors who were constantly involved in an existence filled with wars and battles for justice. The Scottish Warrior had to be prepared to battle from horseback, on the ground, and from behind castle walls. It is believed that at certain times in Scotland's past potential soldiers had to prepare for battle and develop their strength using clandestine techniques in the same way that the Okinawans hid their martial arts battle training in dance forms.

These Celtic warriors thus developed athletic events to build their strengths and skills for battle.

Some believe that a Clan chieftain needed to test and find the best warriors to be his personal guard and to identify his strongest men. It is thought that Malcolm II (1057-1093), also called Malcolm Cennmor (Canmore) defended the area around Braemar against incursions from Moravia (Moray) and he probably instituted the Highland Games as a contest to select the strongest and fittest Clansmen for his armies.

The tests (our current athletic events) simulated throwing stones from battlements, throwing ladders up castle walls, and swinging the long and heavy e Walker family to become staunch competitors on the modern field of battle. In an atmosphere of friendship and support they travel all over California in pursuit of Scottish athletic competition and the camaraderie of the field. Husband Jim was even blessed last year to compete in the Masters World Championships in Bugt Park; Inverness Scotland The Walker family consists of husband Jim, wife Heather, and sons Brian and Blake (Nicholson). Six-month-old Audrey Rose enjoys the Games from the sidelines.

Why would a family spend several weekends each year traveling all over the state to compete in one of the toughest athletic competitions in the world you ask? Certainly the personal challenges of the games is an irresistible draw. Throwing Highland weights requires incredible strength, balance, and skill. Each competition represents a new chance to test their inner and physical strengths to the maximum. But, it is the people they compete against and the wonderful people at the Games that keeps draw-

ing them back.

Heather Walker states, "None of the other sports I have ever competed in comes close to matching the experience I get at the Highland Games. We dress in our ancestors' kilts, compete against some of the best athletes in the world, and get to listen to the pipes play all day long!"

Jim and Heather have been competitive all their lives playing all manner of highly competitive sports. But they always felt pretty much alone in the fiercely competitive atmo-

sphere. Heather comments: "when I have competed before it was always every man for themselves."

of the ten or so games in Northern California each year, about a third of them will have athletic events for the kids. Besides the Caber toss, they often have egg and sack races and even a Haggis toss to test the little one's s k i l l s !

Seven-year-old Blake smiles when he sees the ribbon he won for 1st place in the egg race at the Fresno California games, and eleven year old Brian placed 2nd in the Caber toss. Even six-year-old grandson and women's bodies are stressed to the maximum every time athletes throw in every event. In

three years of competing, Jim has suffered debilitating rotator cuff, back, leg, arm and hand injuries.

Two of the most difficult events are held at the end of the day to provide competitors with a true test to their athletic endurance and for the larger crowds at that time of day. The weight-over-bar (WOB) and Caber Toss come at the time of day when most of the athletes have used up much of their muscle strength and endurance. The WOB requires balance and total body strength to throw a 42-pound

*Continued on page 8*



---

## Orange County Fairgrounds, *continued from page 1*

landscaping and grass areas; bathroom upgrades; new paint on many structures; and much more.

OCF and USS will actively publicize the move and event including but not limited to:

- Press release announcing the return of the event to Orange County
- Distribution of Scottish produced materials at OCF events
- Email burst announcing move to USS email list
- Placement of Ads and Advertising Materials at local games
- Placement in the Winter & Spring edition of OCF's "It's Always Happening" Placement on OCF Boardwalk signage for six-month period prior to the event.
- Prominent banner placement on the OCF website six months prior to the event.
- Part of the monthly OCF E-Marketing program for six-

months prior to the event

- Chat room, Google/Yahoo Advertising, and other computer based opportunities
- Increased advertising in the Orange County papers
- Much, much more....

We appreciate any assistance you can provide in advertising the event and venue change. Please contact the USS for further details.

Of course at OCF we look forward to Memorial Day Weekend, May 24 & 25 2008 .Contact us at The United Scottish Society: Email: [unitedscottish@yahoo.com](mailto:unitedscottish@yahoo.com) or visit our website at: [www.unitedscottishsociety.com](http://www.unitedscottishsociety.com) We look forward to your participation.

---

# Elliott honored by Tennessee Governor

**...excerpts from a letter from State Representative Frank S. Nicely to Congressman Zach Wamp**

"We have a prominent American hero as a resident of Jefferson County; Mr. Jerry Chris Elliott, of Dandridge, Tennessee.

Mr. Elliott helped solve one of the nation's most presiding problems of the 20th century by helping the *Apollo 13* crew back to earth on April 18, 1970.

After 40 years of service, he retired from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), where he served as a Retrofire Officer of NASA's Mission Control Center during the ill-fated *Apollo 13* mission.

Mr. Elliott was the prime Retrofire Officer responsible to compute the necessary control maneuvers and trajectory to return the *Apollo 13* crew safely from the moon to the earth. Through his efforts, he accomplished the successful abort plan resulting in

saving the lives of the three *Apollo 13* astronauts during their near-tragic mission. Due to the resourcefulness and courage and ingenuity during the *Apollo 13* mission, he was awarded a Presidential Medal of Freedom Certificate presented by *Apollo 13* Mission Operations Team by President Richard M. Nixon, April 18, 1970.

*Continued on page 12*

---

## Dr. Horace Loftin retires, *continued from page 1*

Horace has traveled all over the world in search of birds for his Life List and is beyond expert in his Birding hobby.

During his professional career, Dr. Horace Loftin taught oceanography and lived for many years in Panama City, Panama...His home with his late wife, Janice, was in Panama City, Florida. Just a few years ago, Horace moved to his home town in North Carolina.

*Your editor cannot help but tell you that Horace Loftin has been a much beloved friend ever since we met - I guess nineteen years ago. (I'm #12 Henderson member). Horace is that rare and wonderful person, a true friend.*

---

## Heavy Athletics, *continued from page 7*

weight 14 feet almost straight up in the air. The Caber Toss requires exact timing and agility to flip the punishingly heavy 18 foot-long, one hundred pound wooden pole a full 360-degree turn with accuracy. In most competitions, only about ten percent of the competitors can turn the caber completely over.



# WWII War dog statue unveiled

A statue of a hero dog that became mascot to the Free Norwegian Forces during World War II has been unveiled in the coastal Angus town of Montrose (Scotland) to immortalize the story of Bamse, the St. Bernard. British and Norwegian naval officers gathered there for the first look at the statue of Bamse.

The dog, who died more than 60 years ago, has already been honoured with the animal equivalent of the George Cross.

The £50,000 bronze memorial was unveiled by Prince Andrew in front of hundreds of spectators. Bamse, a crew member on the Norwegian minesweeper, *Thorudd*, became a hero when the vessel was stationed in Montrose and Dundee during the war.

His legendary exploits included saving a young lieutenant



*Bamse became a morale-boosting mascot during the war*

who was set upon by a knifeman and rescuing a sailor who fell overboard.

Commodore Charles Stevenson, the Royal Navy's Regional Officer for Scotland, was joined by a delegation of naval officers from Norway at the event. Pupils

*Continued on page 9*

## www.cliplocks.com

**A Re-enactor's Hidden Watch**  
to stay anachronistically correct.



**A perfect gift for anyone!.**  
Pick a style that compliments your outfit,  
pin it on - flip it down and you will  
be right on time!  
**Free Shipping**



## Scotland on TV, Continued from page 3

such high-calibre world class players. And we just loved being there to capture it – despite being soaked to the skin!

### What's next...?

In the meantime, and at the time of writing, we're preparing to catch the ferry for the Cowal Gathering. (And, at the moment, it's a good weather forecast.) We'll have the videos from the event on [www.scotlandontv.tv](http://www.scotlandontv.tv), and promise to report back for the next edition of *Beth's Newfangled Family Tree*.

Photography (c) Scotland on TV/stv





# Widow's Dower Interest

Bryan L. Mulcahy

**D**ower was a widow's right to a lifetime interest in one-third of all land owned by her husband, unless she chose, in place of dower, to accept other property left to her under her husband's will.

Generally, dower applied to each parcel of land in which the husband held an inheritable interest at any time during the marriage. In the United States, dower is found in the eastern and Midwestern states where law was derived from the common law of England.

Researchers must determine the legal implications in effect at the time of the dower to form a hypothesis or a conclusion from the presence or absence of a wife or mother's mention in a deed, will, or intestate land distribution.

If you locate a deed from a married man which his wife had not joined in making, does it mean that she had already died, or merely stayed home to take care of the children when it was made? In most American colonies and their successor states, a wife who had not joined in the deed could sue the purchaser after her husband's death to recover her dower interest. To avoid such issues, some cautious purchasers insisted that the wife join in the deed, so the absence of her signature strongly suggests her earlier death. However, you'll find many differences from one state to another.

In some states such as Connecticut, until 1723, even the wife's own land that she brought to the marriage became her husband's absolutely, to sell or mortgage as he saw fit; therefore, the absence of her signature on a deed would have no genealogical significance.

Similarly, a deed from a son selling land he inherited from his father, which mentions that the land is subject to his mother's dower right, is proof that she was living at the time of the deed. But if she is not mentioned again, the genealogical significance depends on the time and place. The omission may mean only that what was left her by will was worth more and that she relinquished her dower rights. But if her husband died without a will and there is no record that she surrendered her dower rights to the son, then it's more likely she had died by the time the deed was created.

Until the enactment of married woman emancipation acts in the middle to late nineteenth century, married women were subject to the legal concept of coverture. This doctrine placed them under the legal umbrella of her husband.

Only the husband could act for her in any legal proceeding, including selling her own land.

For most married couples, only the wife's dower rights mitigated the harshness of coverture.



*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](mailto:bmulcahy@leegov.com)*

# Please tell your friends about BNFT!

## Please thank our advertisers!



### Hats! Hats!

Send us a picture of You in your favorite hat! (Jpeg - to: bethscribble@aol.com

### Elliott honored by TN Governor,

*continued from page 8*

I recommend Mr. Elliott for a Tennessee Legislative Proclamation for his outstanding accomplishments and many contributions during the *Apollo 13* mission and his dedication to the community."

With thanks to *The Signal Tower* of the Elliot Clan Society, USA.

For more information on the Elliot Clan Society, USA contact the society at 2146 Deer Trail, Suwanee, GA 30024.

### Bamse, *continued from page 7*



*Bamse became a morale-boosting mascot during the war*

of the town's schools waved Norwegian and Scottish flags to the skirl of music from pipe bands during the colorful ceremony.

Bamse, which means "cuddly bear," was much loved by the sailors and locals in Montrose, where he was buried in 1944. The statue was created by Scottish sculptor, Allan Herriot, with cash raised by the Montrose Bamse Project, an organization founded to promote the story of the lifesaving dog. Henny King, director of the project, said, "It was a colourful and emotional ceremony to celebrate the life of a legendary dog who remains much in the hearts of the people of Montrose."



**Caledonian Travel, Inc.**

Customized tours organized by  
**KATE GRAHAM F.S.A.Scot**  
Scotland will come alive for you!

At Caledonian Travel you benefit from our 20 years of experience and expertise in organizing Clan Tours through our excellent contacts in Scotland

#### Caledonian Travel Tours Include:

- Tour guides fully versed in all aspects of Scotland (including historical facts about your specific clan)
- Travel by regularly scheduled airlines
- 1st class hotels, including meals
- Competitive pricing

For full details call (770) 979-1010

We also handle all arrangements for individual travelers to Scotland

**Caledonian Travel, Inc.**

2563 River Knoll Drive, Lithia, GA 30047

Telephone: (770) 979-1010

Fax: (770) 979-4119

caledonian@montpip.org

www.caledoniantravelinc.com



MAKE YOUR DREAM TRIP TO SCOTLAND COME TRUE!



# Preventing arthritis and gout (You'll never guess!) ...with whisky?

From the *Tulach Ard*, the publication of the Clan MacKenzie Society in the Americas, comes word of how to prevent arthritis and gout!

Researchers at Shizuoka University in Japan have reported that malt whisky should prevent the onset of arthritis and gout. Apparently when it is maturing in oak sherry barrels, it produces a chemical which is known to have these health benefits. Taken in sensible quantities of no more than a tot a day, they believe that it will inhibit the compounds responsible for these illnesses. With other research showing the beneficial effects of malt whisky on heart disease and cancer, no wonder the Gaels called it the "water of life."

MacKenzie's...contact Blair MacKenzie, 7028 Bradley Circle, Annandale, VA 22003.

## Mule Day, Calvary, GA the first Saturday in November

If you love horses, mules and old tractors - Mule Day is the place for you.

Just a few miles north of Tallahassee, Florida, Calvary, Georgia celebrates the contributions of the mule with a parade, competitions for both riding and work mules...and a huge arts & craqfts show.

There are prizees and trophies for things like "Prettiest Mule," "Ugliest Mule," etc. in the parade held on Saturday morning. Uauslly there are between 150 and 200 entries in the parade.



# Kilts & Tartan

*Michael G. LaMar, KTJ Priory of Robert the Bruce*

There is no more endearing or enduring image of a Scot than that of one in full Highland dress in clan tartan. Picture the proud Highlander in his kilt and kit wearing a cloth that recalls his ancient kith and kin. It says, “Scotland!”

The problem is that it is more romantic myth than

Early leine with brat This leine garment clothed the Celts throughout the centuries. It evolved over time. In the 16th century, it was not uncommon for it to have long billowing sleeves. It was even worn with a short jacket (Gaelic, “inar”) and woolen tights/trewes (Gaelic, “trius”). Yet it was still not a kilt, nor woven in tartan wool. The question you might well ask now is how we went from this fashion-



historical reality. The kilt dress we see today is a fairly modern invention, as is the tartan of that same kilt. Neither has a valid “ancient” pedigree.

The Scots are descended from the ancient Celts. The ancient Celts did not wear kilts and they did not weave tartan.

The ancient Celts wore a linen tunic (Gaelic, “leine”) that was a short-sleeved garment, like a nightshirt, that hung to the knee. It was dyed a saffron color by those who could afford that luxury.

Over this garment they wore a cloak (Gaelic, “brat”) fixed at the shoulders with broaches. The length, number of stripes and the quality of broaches was determined by wealth or social rank. Ancient Greeks and Romans described it as “striped” as they had no term for the weave, but it was not the complex modern tartan.

able ensemble to a modern kilt? The answer has more to do with politics than fashion. Leine with inar

In 1573, Henry VIII of England banned traditional dress in his kingdom. He wanted all his subjects to dress as he did in the current fashion of the European courts. Further, he thought if his subjects dressed the same, then they might develop a more uniform culture leading to a more united kingdom. This decision had the Scotti clearly in mind.

This ban seemed to be most successful in England, Wales, Ireland and the lowlands of Scotland. It did not take hold in the Highlands and the Isles probably due to the rugged conditions that isolated these areas.

King Henry VIII of England

*Continued on page 15*



However, the garment did change in its isolation. Perhaps it changed because the sources of saffron-dyed linen leine cloth were gone. Perhaps the harsh conditions that isolated these people led them to examine the status quo of their clothing. Regardless of the reason, the locals took the wool they had access to and created a new kind of garment.

Picture a man living in the Highlands or Isles. Life there is hard, wet and cold. He needs to keep warm and dry. The wool from his sheep, dyed with locally available materials, spun into yarn and woven into cloth becomes his fabric of choice and necessity. It's all he has and it works well for him and his.

He has woven a striped woolen blanket (Gaelic, "breacan plaide"). He wraps it about himself as clothing and a new milestone in Highland wear is born: the "breacan filleadh" (the striped pleated wrap).

The first record of this garment occurred in the epic, "The Life of Red Hugh O'Donnell" from 1594; a full twenty years after Henry's ban. The garment was worn by the Hebridean mercenaries from the Isles who came to fight for O'Donnell. It was so new in appearance that the chronicler felt the need to document it and many other atypical features of these men.

It was the genesis of the garment we now call a "kilt". Like all articles of clothing, from shoes to hats, it has undergone evolution and refinement over the centuries.

The next major change occurred when two breacan plaides, each about 4 to 5 yards long and about a yard wide, were sewn along their long axis. A belt was placed on the ground and the seam of this cloth laid over it. The entire cloth was then folded in 3 to 4 inch pleats.

#### **Earliest illustration of the breacan filleadh**

The owner lay supine upon it and drew the end pleat straight across himself to create the under-apron (right to left) and then grasped the other end to create the over-

apron (left to right). The belt was then cinched about the waist and the owner stood. He gathered the left and right corners from the hanging pleats and pinned them at either shoulder. This became the great pleated wrap ("filleadh mhor"), or as it is more commonly referred to today, "the great kilt with belted plaid".

#### **The filleadh mhor**

This garment was clothing, rucksack and housing for those who wore it. However, it was slow and difficult to put on and weighed quite a bit as well; especially when wet.

These drawbacks led to a further modification. The two breacan plaides were not sewn together. The lower half was still pleated and belted; however, the upper half was folded and carried over the shoulder, if at all. This small pleated wrap ("filleadh beag") and striped blanket ("breacan plaide") are the "small kilt" and "plaid" in modern terms.

This garment was practical for life in the areas where it was worn. In time, the pleats were sewn in place. A leather pouch (Gaelic, "sporran") was added to the waist to hold essentials. A plaid or inar or sweater (Gaelic, "geansai") might be added as weather required.

#### **The filleadh beag**

So what happened to it? Once again, politics interceded to change fashion. The precipitating event was the Battle

of Culloden in 1745.

With the Jacobite defeat at Culloden, the English had had enough with Highland Scots and their resistance to enculturation into the British way of life. In 1746, the "Acts of Proscription" banned all aspects of Highland identity: bagpipes, kilts, tartan, Gaelic, etc. These acts, along with the Highland clearances, nearly eradicated this form of dress and the Highland way of life.

*Continued on page 16*



However, the Acts did permit Highland regiments and loyal gentry to maintain their tartan and kilts. These Acts were repealed in 1783, but by then kilt's use amongst civilian commoners had markedly waned. Palace of Holyroodhouse

What followed next was quite a reversal of fortune. In 1822, and much to the credit to Sir Walter Scott and his writings, King George IV decided to hold a Royal Ball at Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh. Invitations were sent out to all the gentry of Scotland commanding them to appear in their traditional Highland dress and in their own tartan.

Unfortunately, there was a wee problem. Most of the gentry did not now own these clothes, it being over 75 years since Culloden, and they were not sure if they even had an "official" family tartan. Imagine their further confusion when they went to the portrait galleries of their homes and found ancestors wearing several different tartans in the same painting! It had been the fashion earlier in Scottish history to wear more than one tartan at a time.

This brings up the whole issue of tartans. The word tartan is derived from a French term, "tiretaine", and it denoted a complex weave of colors in cloth of wool with a silk or linen mix. The original Gaelic term breacan denoted a simpler striped cloth. The modern English word is "plaid".

The local weavers made cloth with the wool, dye and looms available to them. People in a given area would wear what was locally available to them. In this way, district tartans evolved and one could identify where a man was from by the tartan he wore. However, it was not codified. A man could wear what he wished or could afford.

Only a man of some means could afford a custom weave. And just because he did, that did not make it his "official" tartan for his clan or family. He could wear more than one at a time, as many did in keeping with the fashion of the day.

And "official" tartans are a fairly modern concept. The "Black Watch" regimental tartan was the first registered tartan in 1740. Many other regiments followed soothe. And the "Scottish Tartans Authority" maintains a record of all recorded tartans to this day.

### **The Black Watch Tartan Scottish Tartans Authority Arms**

Now this is not to say that tartan did not exist before

1740. It is just that until they began being registered there was no recognized, "official" tartan for many districts, clans, families and regiments.

So one can see that the gentry had a wee problem. They needed to decide on a tartan, have it made, and be ready to greet the King attired as commanded. And just when all looked hopeless, providence provided.

### **The Brothers' Sobieski**

Two men presented themselves in noble society as the grandsons of Bonnie Prince Charlie. These men were known as the Sobieski brothers. They had in their possession, rather conveniently, a book which illustrated and codified all the "ancient" tartans of Scotland: the, "Vestiarium Scoticum".

The brothers, for a fee, advised all manner of gentry as to the correct tartan they should wear given their name, clan, district, etc. The weavers, for a fee, were busy making it all. The gentry were relieved to be properly attired as requested.

Money was flowing and the myth was being satisfied. There was just one small problem. The brothers and their book were both a fraud.

By the time these facts were discovered, however, the damage was done. Many of the "ancient" tartans registered for surnames or clans

from that period remain as such with the Authority to this day.

### **Arms of the Lord Lyon Court**

It is of no small note, and in response to this situation, that in 1948, the Lord Lyon Court declared that tartans derived from "ancient" sources were, in their words, "humbug". Therefore, the "official" Lord Lyon Court position on "official" tartans is that they are, in fact, whatever a clan Chief, clan Society, county, nation, corporation or what-have-you registers as their "official" tartan with the Authority. They may be recorded as such, but can hold no legitimate claim to an "ancient" pedigree.

### **Victorian Highland Dress**

Besides the tartan issue, the gentry did not know how, or with what, they should wear their kilts. The easiest thing to do was to have attire made that resembled that of the Scottish regiments. The tailors knew how to make these garments and they did look smart. If one were a civilian they could be made in black wool or



*Continued on page 17*



tartan or silk instead of regimental colors and without the military finishes.

The Montrose, Sheriffmuir and other doublets or jackets worked splendidly with jabot or cravat and this Victorian-era civilian interpretation became the accepted style. It became so accepted that in time it became nearly as codified as dress within the Scottish regiments! And, in truth, these rigid rules of how, and with what accessories, one should wear the kilt in full Highland dress have only recently been challenged.

Yet, moreso than the Royal Ball, the true political savior of this dress was none other than Victoria, the English Queen. Victoria was enamored with all things Scottish, having grown up reading Sir Walter Scott's writings and the newspaper tales of the brave Scottish regiments in battle in India, against Napoleon and in the Crimea.

Victoria reveled in her Scottish bloodlines (Stuart). She built a summer home in Scotland at Balmoral. She took a Scottish valet, John Brown. She made sure that Highland attire was not only legal, but fashionable as well.

It was said that a "cult of Balmorality" existed during her reign. Her love of all things Scottish kept this bit of Highland life, however mythologized, Queen Victoria alive. To review:

- \* The ancient Celts did not wear a kilt.

- \* The kilt evolved from the dress of the ancient Celts.

- \* It has gone from breacan filleadh, to filleadh mhor, to filleadh beag, to a sewn version of the filleadh beag, to a codified regimental version, and to a modified Victorian-era version which has survived to this day.

- \* The old-style wrap is rarely seen outside re-enactor groups or Renaissance fairs.

- \* The striped cloth of the ancient Celts was not like modern tartan

- \* The breacan has gone from simple stripes in vegetable dyes to the complex weave we call tartan in a panoply of modern bright colors.

- \* There are no "ancient" kilts or tartans.

The saddest thing is that many people are threatened by this knowledge. There are those in their ignorance that believe the myth. Certainly it does not help when Hollywood perpetuates the myth with movies like "Braveheart" where Mel Gibson is attired in filleadh mhor in tartan two centuries before it existed. The further irony is that Wallace would have been dressed like a Norman knight and his men like the Irish conscripts sent to fight him!

People can be persuaded by fraud when they wish to

be. Remember the Sobieski brothers and all those weavers and all that willing gentry who participated in the original fraud? Do not underestimate the power of blind ignorance, romantic patriotism, or large profits in defending a long-held tradition or perpetuating a treasured myth.

All that being said, what does the future hold? I think the classic Victorian-era dress will survive. It has a timeless charm. For the conservatives, this news is no doubt good news.

In addition, there are, and there will be, new versions of this dress in formal and casual styles. And even the 500 year old filleadh versions will survive amongst re-enactors and Renaissance participants.

### Classic Highland Dress:

Among those who wear Classic Highland Dress are: Sir Hamish Forbes and Sir Sean Connery

Modern Highland Dress: Modern Casual Highland Dress: Geoffrey Taylor Kiltmaker The Tribe of Mar Tour of Scotland, 2005, in "Utilikilt"

21<sup>st</sup> Century Unusual Highland Dress: 2005 NYC "Dressed To Kilt" participants

In the end, whether you chose early, Victorian or modern kilt wear,



"Wear it well!" To wit:

- \* Chose a tartan for surname, clan, country or what have you.

- \* Or go with any color of fabric/leather/vinyl/? that suits you.

- \* Dress "correctly" for the period or function.

- \* Have fun with it! ●

*Note: all dates are CE.*

### Bibliography:

There are many books and articles and websites to consult on this topic. Here a few selected ones:  
Cahill, Thomas. *How the Irish Saved Civilization*. New York: Doubleday, 1995.  
McClintock, H.F. *Old Irish and Highland Dress*. Original publication, 1943. Edinburgh: Scotdisc CD-ROM #609, 2003.

McGann, Kass. *Reconstructing History*. <http://www.reconstructinghistory.com/>. July, 1995.

McGann, Kass. Personal email. 7/08/2005.

Newsome, Matthew A. C. *The Early History of the Kilt*. <http://albanach.org/kilt.html>. July, 2005.  
Thompson, J. Charles. *So You're Going to Wear the Kilt*. 3rd ed. Arlington, VA: Heraldic Art, 1989.

Web page. *History of the Kilt in Scotland*. <http://www.majestictech.com/the-celtic-net/kilthistory.html>. July, 2005.

Web page: *Scottish Tartan Authority*: <http://www.tartansauthority.com/Web/Site/home/home.asp>

Web page: *The Court of the Lord Lyon*: [http://www.lyon-court.com/lordlyon/II\\_homeTemplate.jsp?sessionId=8EA5FD3D2D8A88D0E0341209C5F2D2F3?\\_p\\_apply=CCC&p\\_service=Content.show&pContentID=220&](http://www.lyon-court.com/lordlyon/II_homeTemplate.jsp?sessionId=8EA5FD3D2D8A88D0E0341209C5F2D2F3?_p_apply=CCC&p_service=Content.show&pContentID=220&)

Translations:

\* Beag: Gaelic, "small" \* Brat: Gaelic, "blanket" \* Breacan: Gaelic, "striped" \* Filleadh: Gaelic, "pleated wrap" \* Geansai: Gaelic, "sweater" \* Inar: Gaelic, "jacket" \* Leine: Gaelic, "shirt" \* Mhor: Gaelic, "great" \* Plaid: Gaelic, "pleated blanket" \* Scottus: Latin, "Irishman/raider" (pl., Scotti) \* Sporrán: Gaelic, "purse" \* Tiretaine: French, "woven striped cloth; Anglicized to "tartan" \* Trius: Gaelic, "tights" or "trousers"

Copyright: 2007, Michael G. LaMar, MD All rights reserved.

# Strongbow wins his AKC championship at Irish Wolfhound Specialty in Flagstaff



Strongbow Baile Atha Cliath, the three year old Irish Wolfhound of Patricia and Connall Bell has won his AKC Championship. Championships are awarded when a dog has won first place in his breed and his points have accumulated to 15 including two major shows - not an easy accomplishment for dog or handler.

The picture shows Strongbow with his handler and owner, Connall Bell, winning his first major last November in Tucson, Arizona. He became a Champion at Flagstaff, Arizona, on June 9th.

Strongbow has not changed his personality, but Connall is still on cloud nine.

Connall and Patricia will continue to go to Irish Wolfhound Specialty shows where Strongbow will compete in the Best of Breed category.

Strongbow is named after the Earl of Pembroke who was sent to Ireland in 1175 by King Henry II to help Dermot McMuragh King of Munster win a battle. Actually Dermot asked Henry II for assistance and officially Strongbow was the first English man to set foot in Ireland. He married Dermot's daughter and remained in Ireland the rest of his life and is buried in Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin. His wife actually declared Strongbow High King of Ireland, but Henry quickly paid a visit to Ireland and quenched this situation.

*Baile Atha Cliath* is Gaelic for Dublin



## ***Books! Books! Books!***

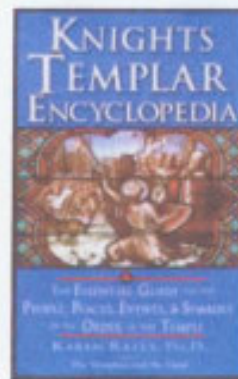


**221-1. Skye: The Island and Its Legends.** By Otta Swire. 244pp. pb. First published in 1951, this completely revised edition of 2006 once again makes available one of those classics of Scottish folklore famous throughout the second half of the 20th century. When I first began to sell used Scottish books, this was one which always was in demand, and rightly so. Otta Swire was born the daughter of a Skye native and she spent her summers on the island with her mother's parents in those magical years before World War I. She absorbed stories of the island from them and from other Skye natives, and after World War II she returned to Skye to live year round. This work, her first and best, is a trip around Skye. But to describe this book in travelogue terms is to ignore what it does best. Rather, it is a complex and magical telling of the stories and legends about these places which elevate it from tourist book to a love affair with the island and its past. To be sure, most of the stories

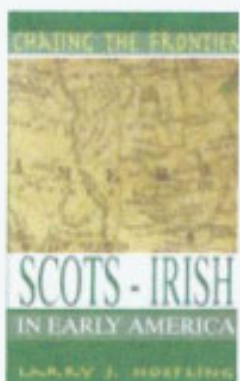
are of an age long ago, when Celtic and Norse mythology ruled the island and shaped its people. This is, after all, a book which pulls you into a long-lost world of Skye heroes and heroines, of little people and giant Celtic warriors, of Donald and MacLeod chiefs, and of bards and MacCrimmon bagpipers. The stories are skillfully incorporated into accounts of the places where they took place. The book also is a splendid introduction to a Norse-Celtic world which still shapes and makes unique the fabled island of Skye. \$15.95

**221-2. Knights Templar Encyclopedia: The Essential Guide to the People, Places, Events and Symbols of the Order of the Temple.** By Karen Ralls. 302pp. pb. For

most of us, the high middle ages in European history represent a complicated world filled with many institutions, ideas, places, and events which are strange, foreign, unknown to us. Back in our college days, "medieval history" most often was a 6-week period at best in what was then called Western Civilization. But the culture of the 12th and 13th centuries is a lively and complex one, with Christianity in Europe dominating that world and defining what it did and how it did it. So, when trying to understand the Knights Templar, we all hit blanks on many topics. This encyclopedia takes an alphabetical approach to the problem, working through the history and culture of the period from "A" to "Z". The entries may be something as simple as the type of hair-cut the Templars wore or something as controversial as the Council of Troyes and what it meant for the Templars. The explanations are written for the educated reader and not for the scholar and so it is a most handy book which can be kept by your



favorite reading chair for easy reference. \$19.99



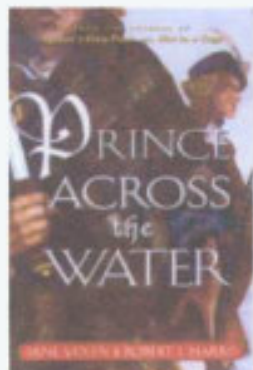
**221-3. Chasing the Frontier: Scots-Irish in Early America.** By Larry J. Hoeffling. 280pp. pb. Books about the Scots-Irish are fairly common, but respectable, well researched and interesting books about this strange hybrid group are rare. We all have heard of the Scots-Irish here in the US, but it is a topic unknown in Britain, and even American historians approach it with trepidation and caution. The very label "Scots-Irish" itself comes into use only in the late 19th century, to distance older settlers from more recent and suspect Irish Catholic immigrants in Boston, New York, and Philadelphia. The older settlers of 18th-century America were said to be Protestant or Presbyterian, Anglo-Saxons from the Scottish Borders who resettled in Ireland and who brought a particular and unique culture with them to the new world frontier. The ideas and institutions of those early settlers in western

*Continued on page 20*



## Books! Books! Books! *Continued from page 19*

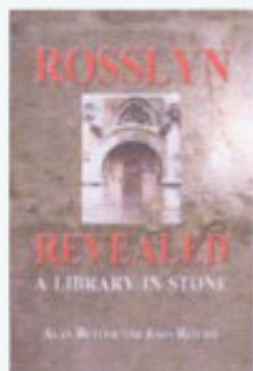
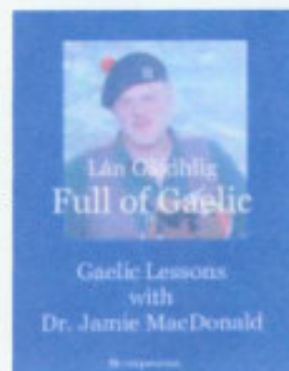
Virginia and the western Carolinas, however, were different from those held by the Anglican gentry of Tidewater Virginia or coastal Carolina, and without question the Scots-Irish frontiersmen of early America did demand a separation of Church and State and they did question the wisdom of established authority. How these people lived, the way they farmed, the pastimes they enjoyed, and the trials and tribulations they endured is as much a part of early American life as the more refined and conventional way of life of Williamsburg or New Bern. This account of the Scots-Irish frontiersmen and their families includes the names of more than 6,000 individuals, but the primary value of the work is in the picture it gives of a way of life over more than a hundred years. If you are tired of propagandistic rhetoric claiming all sorts of strange characteristics for the Scots-Irish, then I recommend this work to you. Certainly it is one of the most worthy publications on the subject in recent years. \$29.95



**221-4. Prince Across the Water.** By Jane Yolen and Robert J. Harris. 290pp. pb. As a young teenager, I read hundreds of historical novels, some excellent, some not so good, and some truly terrible, but from them I gradually built up an interest in the past and the ability to see the difference between a well written historical novel and one to be thrown aside. So I am a firm believer in providing the young with a choice of romantic and heroic stories; it really doesn't matter if the dialogue is more "now" than "then". And Jane Yolen is an excellent writer of novels of historical adventure. This is the third in a series which includes the *The Queen's Own Fool* and *Girl in a Cage* (both also available). Duncan MacDonald is a teenager who wants to join his father in the fight to restore Prince Charles, who is 24, to the thrones of Scotland and England. He and his cousin Ewan are so stirred up by stories of adventure and honor that they run away to join the Prince, who is moving toward Culloden. But the glories of war quickly fade in the war camp and they begin to doubt the reasons for the battle. If you want

a good, fast read or if you have a young reader in your life, then this will do well for you in early summer. \$7.99

**SP-254. Làn Gàidhlig — Full of Gaelic: Gaelic Lessons with Dr. Jamie MacDonald.** Book on paper with audio CD. Dr. Jamie MacDonald is a well known and much beloved and respected feature at many Highland Games, but particularly at Grandfather Mountain in July. We all have said many times that we wished we could speak Gaelic, but somehow in our busy world, it just doesn't get done. I understand your problem in finding the time to tackle a language — and then there is the problem of all that grammar and how are you supposed to learn what it sounds like anyway. First of all, Jamie teaches you useful phrases and greetings, things you might actually use. And the audio CD, which you can use in the car as you drive to work, lets you practice actually speaking the phrases. If you ever have thought seriously about learning just a little of this ancient language, this is the way to do it. And when you come to the Grandfather Mountain Games in July, you can work directly with Jamie at his language tent. Give it a whirl! \$19.95



**221-5. Rosslyn Revealed: A Library in Stone.** By Alan Butler and John Ritchie. 206pp. hb. Rosslyn Chapel is at the very heart of Rosslyn Castle, and its strange and mysterious symbols seem to be totally out of the usual for a late medieval chapel. Built in the 14th century, Rosslyn contains carvings and other architectural features which have no quick or easy explanation; they seem to have been designed and carved by builders with a hidden agenda, a plan not apparent to the ordinary worshipper of the age. Butler and Ritchie uncover previously unknown facts about the origins, builders, construction, and purpose of this chapel, and what they report to the reader is a "heady, continent-wide mix of religion, natural knowledge and philosophy that was heretical for its time." They tackle the connection of the chapel to the Knights Templar and to the Freemasons, and they try to unravel what seem to be links to the early Christian past and to the modern world to come. Part architectural study, part history, part religion and philosophy, *Rosslyn Revealed* tackles the problem of a mysterious chapel in Scotland and its role in the larger world of religion and philosophy. \$29.95

*More books next time!*



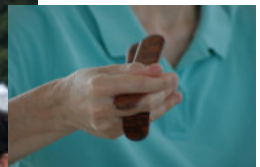


*The Northern Arizona Celtic Heritage Society's*  
**10th annual Arizona Highland Celtic Festival**  
*July 21-22, Foxglenn Park, Flagstaff, AZ*





*The Northern Arizona Celtic Heritage  
Society's*  
**10th annual Arizona  
Highland Celtic Festival**  
*July 21-22, Foxglenn Park,  
Flagstaff, AZ*





*The Northern Arizona Celtic Heritage Society's*  
**10th annual Arizona Highland Celtic Festival**

*July 21-22, Foxglenn Park, Flagstaff, AZ*



Yes, that's hail in AZ in summertime!





*The Northern Arizona Celtic Heritage Society's*  
**10th annual Arizona Highland Celtic Festival**  
*July 21-22, Foxglenn Park, Flagstaff,*







*The Northern Arizona  
Celtic Heritage Society's*  
**10th annual Arizona  
Highland Celtic Festival**  
*July 21-22  
Foxglenn Park, Flagstaff, AZ*





*The Northern Arizona  
Celtic Heritage Society's  
10th annual*

# *Arizona Highland Celtic Festival*

*July 21-22  
Foxglenn Park, Flagstaff, AZ*







# CABERDANCER GRAPHIC DESIGN, INC.

Unique Custom Design & Production Services

Logo Design  
Screen Printing  
Awards & Medals  
Pins & Banners  
Offset Printing  
Embroidery  
Flying Heraldry

909 West Main Street  
Walhalla SC 29691  
Tel 864-638-8102  
Fax 864-718-8105  
[www.caberdancer.com](http://www.caberdancer.com)  
[sales@caberdancer.com](mailto:sales@caberdancer.com)

Publishers of  
*TATTOO*  
Guide to the Highland Games  
of the Southeast

Proud Sponsors of  
Clan MacBubba  
Society Int'l.

© 2006 CABERDANCER