

Volume V Issue No. 9 *Beth's Newfangled Family Tree* Section A February 2012



Scottish Harp Society of America Has a New National Champion

*Kelly Stewart Brzozwski of Atlanta, GA Receives
Top Honor as well as Clan Currie Harper of the Day Trophy*

The Scottish Harp Society of America (SHSA) and the Clan Currie Society (producers of the Pipes of Christmas) are pleased to announce that Kelly Stewart Brzozwski of Atlanta, GA is the 2011 National Scottish Harp Champion of America.

The championship was held on Saturday, October 28 at the Meadow Highland Games and Celtic Festival in Doswell, VA ó just north of Richmond.

Brzozwski was also named the 2011 Clan Currie Harper of the Day.

Judging the Nationals were the renowned harpers Sharon Knowles and Ann Heymann.

It was a successful event, with a full flight of competitors. The championship hosted competitors in four Special Categories as well as solo artists at every level of ability.

Many traveled halfway across the country to take part.

Judges Knowles and Heymann had a challenging event to judge as the quality of the competitors' performances were extremely high.

In addition to judging, they provided competi-



Celebrating Success - Robert Currie, (second from left) president of the Clan Currie Society presents the Harpist of the Day award to Kelly Stewart Brzozwski (far right) of Atlanta, GA. Joining them are championship judges Sharon Knowles (left) and Ann Heymann (second from right).

tors with thoughtful feedback on their performance. For Kelly Stewart Brzozwski, the win was unforgettable. ÓIam thrilled to be the national champion and honored to be in such good company. I try to

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Editor, photographer, etc.
Beth Gay-Freeman, LOK, FSA Scot
<bethscribble@aol.com>
102 Lakeside Drive
Walhalla, SC 29691

Webmaster
Alastair McIntyre, KTJ, FSA Scot
<<http://www.electricscotland.com>>

Masthead Designer
Tom Freeman, KR, FSA Scot
<tom@caberdancer.com>

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*Miss Narra - at 17 - wishes everyone
a lovely and loving Valentine's Day
2012.*





A letter from your editor

Finally! At last! We have a house! Yaha!

We have looked for the perfect house for about five years. At first we thought we could build - and spent quite awhile working on our dream house plans. That turned out not to be practical for us, so we started looking at houses and learning about renovations and to overlook small boo-boos in a house and how we could fix what was not perfect for us..

Our house hunt was hard and long.

You see, we needed something large - close to 4000 sq. feet - with a bit of land - at least five acres - for my horses, Tom's mule and a garden, chickens, etc. The house had to be large enough for two offices, a library, a formal dining room, big porches and room for our friends to come and visit.

There are many houses that fit all of these requirements. These houses are always easy to find. However, houses which are large, with land, usually sell for LOTS of money. We wanted to pay cash for the house...which meant a very real budget.

We discovered that we have a rare talent. If you have a piece of real estate or a house for sale and nobody has shown the slightest bit of interest in it for years...just let Tom and Beth come and fall in love with it and someone will write a contract either that afternoon or early the next morning. This has happened to us over and over and over again.

I reckon we've loved maybe six houses in five years - the last one was a beautiful log home that sold to someone else the Friday before Tom's land sold on Saturday. We had been

so sure that was THE ONE.

That stung!

We had always said to each other, "When the time is right, the best house of all for us will show up."

Two days after the land was under contract, Tom found a listing on the Internet that showed only four photos and did not have near the information we needed. This listing left out things like the square footage of the house and the size of the property that went with it. It did have one picture of a curving stone wall that intrigued both of us. We sort of passed over this listing because of the lack of information and photos. I'd bet we had looked at ten thousand houses, all over the country, on the Internet and had passed over all of them.

That night, I kept thinking about that curved stone wall. "Maybe if I look for other listings, I might find a better one that will tell us everything we need," I thought.

The next morning, I looked for more listings of this house on the Internet. I found one that was on YouTube. This one was a three and a half minute video of the house.

Before it was done, I was hollering for Tom to come see...I woke him up and was hollering so that he thought I had been attacked by an alligator or maybe a lion or something huge and hairy like a Big Foot with big teeth.

While he was getting up and getting to me to rescue me from whatever evidently had me by the throat, I was breaking land speed

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Join us for a celebration of Scottish & Cape Breton fiddle & piano!

Workshop/House Concert
with Ed & Neil Pearlman
Thursday, Feb 23 - Workshop 5:30 ~ Concert 7:30



FOR MORE DETAILS:

Tim: t2lynch@yahoo.com or Aisha:
theaisha@hotmail.com



Neil Pearlman blends Cape Breton piano with jazz and Latin grooves - a new sound, yet true to traditional roots.

Neil grew up playing music and dancing, and toured as a stepdancer with the Natalie MacMaster band. He has taught piano at Alasdair Fraser's Sierra Fiddle Camp, and has played with Alasdair Fraser, Natalie MacMaster, Mark O'Connor, and many others. In New York, Neil has played jazz and trad music at Carnegie Hall, the Bitter End,

Ed Pearlman is one of America's best fiddlers in the Scottish style; he directed the Boston Scottish Fiddle Club 1981-99, has worked with Alasdair Fraser, Natalie MacMaster, Tony Cuffe and many others; Ed taught at Blazin Fiddles camp in Scotland, Maine Fiddle Camp, Swannanoa Celtic Week, Ohio Scottish Arts School, and writes the music column for *Scottish Life* magazine.

Workshop \$8, Concert \$7, Both for only \$12

(\$2 discount for kids accompanied by parent)

Workshop 5:30-6:45

Scottish fiddling (other instruments and interested listeners are welcome)

Learn what makes Scottish music tick by focusing on a few good tunes

Concert 7:30-8:30

Ed & Neil have a deep knowledge of the music of Scotland and Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, with jazz and Latin influences. Neil will also do a Cape Breton stepdance.

At the home of Tim Lynch located at 1515 Argonne Rd, Tallahassee, FL

Book-Plate Design

Romilly Squire

The modern trend in book-plate design is to dispense with the inclusion of **EX LIBRIS** and the name of the individual or body concerned. Heraldry is, after all, a system of identification and many heraldists now consider that any additional form of identification is neither necessary nor desirable. However, as a great many of the books in our library have been presented to the Society over the years by members and friends, it was decided that space should be made available for the inclusion of a suitable inscription to identify and acknowledge the donor.

On occasions when a book has not been acquired by gift or be-quest, the book-plate can be trimmed to exclude the empty space at the bottom of the design.

Obviously, when designing a book-plate, it is not necessary for the artist to place the Arms within a box unless, of course, he or she is asked to do so by the client. This is purely a matter of personal taste. Whenever a new heraldic design is created, however, regardless of the personal taste of the client involved, the artist must always take into consideration the final application of the design: how and where is it to be used? In the case of a book-plate this, luckily, presents no problem. The final setting for a book-plate will invariably be rectangular in shape. The design should therefore conform to this format. There will undoubtedly be occasions when an artist will be required to design a coat of arms to fit within any variety of unusual shapes but the problems which result will not be covered here.

The first stage of any heraldic design requires the production of a rough sketch of the full achievement so that one fills the whole area within which one is working, at the same time concentrating on the relative proportions of all the elements at one's disposal. This is best achieved by working initially on tracing paper; any alterations can then be made as work

progresses from one stage to the next.

Contemporary Scottish heraldic art, pioneered by Graham Johnston and A.G. Law Samson and later refined by Don Pottinger, attempts to emulate the classic proportions of medieval heraldry with shield, helm and crest each occupying about one-third of the overall design, and the mantling being kept as simple as possible. However, there are occasions when a more inventive and elaborate use of mantling is required, either to fill a space or to satisfy the personal preference of the client. It is important, though, that however complicated the mantling may appear in its two-dimensional form, it should always look as if it were physically possible to achieve the same result with a piece of fabric.

Once the artist is satisfied with the design, the tracing can then be transferred to its final surface, whether this be paper, vellum, line board, wood or any number of different materials.

A book-plate design is obviously destined finally for printing. The finished artwork should therefore be produced on good quality line board. The final drawing may be made using either gouache or Indian ink but, to ensure that there is no loss of quality in the final printing, it is always advisable to make the working drawing at least twice the size of the eventual printed image. Thus any minor flaws in the drawing will be sharpened up in the process of reduction.

As colour printing these days is extremely expensive, book-plates are invariably printed in one colour on either white or coloured paper. This means that the design must be produced in line and solid black, or in line and Petra Sancta,



Continued on page 7



**McDuffee Clan Society of America
of Clan Macfie**
50th Anniversary Celebration

to be held at Glasgow, KY Highland Games May 30 - June 3, 2012

The games are held at Barren River Park

Registration should be in no later than two week prior to the event

We will plan arrival at the Ramada Inn, Bowling Green , KY on Wed., May 30.

Registration for the 50th Anniversary Celebration

will be \$93.50 per person

This will include entrance to the games on Saturday & Sunday,
plus transportation to and from the games.

Send Registration & check made to: McDuffie(ee) Clan Society to

David N. McDuffie, 27 Aberdeen Ct., Newnan, GA 30263

Registration needs to be returned by 1 May 2012

Romilly Squire, *continued from page 5* —

the method of representing colour with lines of hatching. This is named after the 17th century Jesuit writer on heraldry who devised the system: it is generally reserved for uncoloured illustrations where an indication of the tinctures is considered essential.



In the case of the Society's book-plate it was decided that the crest was so elaborate that the use of hatching would only have confused the image. However, if in other circumstances one decided that the use of Petra Sancta was suitable, this can either be applied free-hand or by using one of the proprietary brands of transfer hatching. This would obviously incur additional expense for the client but, if it is well done and if it does not interfere with the heraldic content of the Arms, the Petra Sancta system is both very attractive and, at the same time, most informative.

The working methods described in this article apply not only to bookplate design but to any heraldic design which is intended ultimately for printing. This would include letter-headings, business cards, invitation cards (weddings etc.), greetings cards, book illustration - in fact, any situation in which the display of heraldry was felt to be both desirable and in good taste.

In his book *Scots Heraldry* Sir Thomas Innes of Learney urges us to use our heraldry. But we must be careful to use it correctly. If you are ever asked to produce a book-plate or any other heraldic art-work, it is important to make absolutely certain that the potential client is legally entitled to bear the Arms in question. Many and varied are the legal pitfalls that can open up before the unsuspecting artist. However, in the words of Sir Thomas Innes: "Whenever it is correctly used, [heraldic display] is not only justifiable but honest and pleasing. No more splendid form of decoration exists, for it is at once artistic and interesting, and affords a pleasure which meaningless tracery and stock patterns can never supply."

Originally published in *The Double Tressure* No.XI, 1989. *This article has been used with the permission of Romilly Squire.*

Romilly Squire, OStJ, DA, FHSS, FSA Scot, SHA, is quondam Heraldic Artist at the Court of the Lord Lyon.

Auld Lang Syne, beloved of all...

In sentimental American movies, Robert Burns's *Auld Lang Syne* is sung by crowds at the big New Year finale . . . in Bangkok and Beijing it is so ubiquitous as a song of togetherness and sad farewells, they presume it must be an old Thai or Chinese folk song . . . while in France it is the song which eases the pain of parting with the hope that we will all see each other again.

Oui, nous nous reverrons, mes frères, ce n'est qu'un au revoir.

Auld Lang Syne is one of Scotland's gifts to the world, recalling the love and kindness of days gone by, but in the communion of taking our neighbours' hands, it also gives us a sense of belonging and fellowship to take into the future. It is one of the many folk songs from the great Lowland Scots tradition collected and fashioned by the pen of one of the world's greatest songwriters.

Burns devoted the last years of his life to the song tradition, and often a mere fragment from some old ballad was transformed by his alchemy into a memorable love song or Scots poem.

With *Auld Lang Syne*, though, the brilliance was already there; this is the Bard's first mention of it in a letter to Mrs Dunlop in 1788: "Light be the turf on the breast of the heaven inspired Poet who composed this glorious fragment."

One of the most interesting facts is that the *Auld Lang Syne* tune which is sung from Times Square to Tokyo, and has conquered the world, is not the one Robert Burns put the original words to. The older tune though is still sung by traditional singers. It has a more douce, gentle, nostalgic feel to it than the popular tune a mood evoked by the subtle use of the traditional air sung by Mairi Campbell in the first *Sex and the City* movie. However, whichever tune it is sung to, and wherever in the world it is sung, *Auld Lang Syne* retains the great emotional resonance of the original traditional song of the Scottish people of those days in the distant past.

Lets leave the last word to Burns himself...

"... is not the Scots phrase, 'Auld Lang Syne' exceedingly expressive - there is an old song and tune which has often thrilled through my soul."

The Call has been issued!

All Clans to gather for The Glasgow Highland Games 2012! Come share your Scottish pride by participating in 2012 Raising of The Clans.

Remember all Clans in attendance will receive 2 Games tickets for Saturday and Sunday! Give your best Clan war cry so Clan Hay (last year's winner) chooses your Clan as this year's winner! Let's kick off the Ceilidh with an inspiring torchlight ceremony!

I hope to see all of you there!

Peter Lapham

**Director, Raising of the Clans
Glasgow Highland Games**



Curtis Hixon new Clan Stewart SC Comish

Curtis Hixon has just been appointed new South Carolina State Commissioner by the Clan Stewart Society in America.

You may contact Mr. Hixon by calling 706-219-3055 or by using his email at curtishixon@windstream.net.

Clan Crawford Association

Incorporated to serve our members worldwide to preserve our legacy. Our Associates can assist you with surname related activities including events, DNA genealogy, heraldry, surname history and more.

Ralf Smart, Director, SE

**803-425-5316 or general_ly@yahoo.com or
www.clancrawford.org**



FICTION VERSUS FACT - CLAN SEPTS

Dave Chagnon, FSA Scot, Sennachie & Membership Registrar
Chairman, Board of Directors Clan Davidson Society (USA)

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

In all honesty, the whole issue of family names, what we call surnames or "last names" today, is a pretty recent invention, all things being considered. And the *emphasis* on regularity in the spelling of these surnames is *really* recent, just in the last 5 or 6 decades in some cases (at least in some parts of the United States, anyway). I once had a friend whose surname was spelled *McEwen*. His Dad had wandered a hundred miles west from

Memphis in the 1920s to settle in a small town just north of Little Rock, Arkansas. His first cousin, still living near Memphis, spelled his surname *McEuen*. This was just 70 years ago, and only over a distance of about a hundred miles. How do you think it might have been several hundred years in the past, when many of the common folk (and many of the

Gentry, too) were illiterate? Is it any wonder we have so many variations on how our ancestors spelled their names?

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

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

gentlemen who have similar views on the subject.

The Romantic Myth of Scottish Clan Septs

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

1. *John A. Duncan of Sketraw, FSA Scot1 - Clan Duncan Society* - The concept of "sept" names is itself one of some contention with many misconceptions and a generally exaggerated romanticisation brought about, in the main, by Victorian rediscovery. This rediscovery was largely due to George IV's visit to Edinburgh in 1822, organised by Sir Walter Scott, and spurred on by him in his "Waverly Novels" The Victorians loved this self created and romanticised view of Scotland's past and name septs were compiled



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

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

2. *Sir Thomas Innes of Learney, GCMG, GVO2 WS (1893-1971) Lord Lyon King of Arms, 1945-1969,*

Continued on page 13

Clan Bell International



This old West Marche Clan, one of Border clans since the early 1100s, were retainers of the Great House of Douglas and also allied with the best border families through blood and friendship. Their land holdings were extensive, and to survive, they engaged in the “rieving” of the period and participated in many battles against the English.

Declared “unruly” by the Scottish Parliament, many of the Clan emigrated to the Ulster Plantation after 1610.

After William Bell, called *Redcloak* and Chief of the Clan died in 1628, the chiefship became dormant, and without leadership, the Bells ceased to exist as a viable clan.

Clan Bell International (CBI) in the United States represents Clan Bell world-wide with a coordinated network of 20 International Representatives, each representing the Clan in their own country.

CBI is a charitable organization of Scottish descendants and friends of Family/Clan Bell dedicated to the study of Bell genealogy and Scottish history and the perpetuation of family tradition.

CBI cordially invites membership inquiries from persons Named Bell (all spellings), their descendants and friends. Quarterly newsletter published. Tents hosted at major Scottish festivals from coast to coast.

President:

William H. Bell

2322 Shadow Hill Drive
Riverside, CA 92506

clanbellusa@sbcglobal.net

Visit our Web site:

clanbell.org

Membership Secretary:

Alta Jean Ginn

12147 Holly Knoll Circle
Great Falls, VA 22066

aginn@cox.net

*A fundraiser for the
Triad Highland Games*

SCOTTISH TEA

Sunday, February 12, 2012

2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Bring your family & friends for an afternoon
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Tea will be served
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Call 828-260-4179 for more information.

We are also collecting canned donations for Second Harvest Food



Questions? Contact at Pat Young <gnuoytap@gmail.com>

Clan Baird Society Worldwide

Wrex Diem, president
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Kevan Crawford, Ph.D. at:
Kevan@clancrawford.org

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

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

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

merely represent some person's, (usually in the Victorian eras) views of which name groups were in a particular clan's territory. Thus, we find members of a clan described, as being persons owing allegiance to their chief "by pretence of blood or place of thare duelling". In addition to blood members

of the clan, certain families have a tradition (even if the tradition can with the aid of modern records are shown to be wrong) descent from a particular clan chief. They are, of course, still recognised as being members of the clan.

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

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

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by Duncan MacPhail

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Contact bethscribble@aol.com*

Clan Septs, continued from page 13

aries of a clan's territory would find that while the chiefs power was on the up they would owe him allegiance but - if his power declined retrospectively at some arbitrary date which the compiler of the list has selected. Often the names are Scotland-wide and so it is difficult to say that particular name belongs to a particular clan. Often surnames are shown as potentially being members of a number of clans, and this is because a number of that name has been found in each different clan's territory.

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

chief will accept them as his clan. has already with the from time to t i c u l a r



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

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

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

We must view some of these 19th century

Continued on page 21

Gotta Query?

Send it to
bethscribble@aol.com

If you'd like to be reminded
when a new issue of

Beth's

Newfangled Family Tree

is "up" here,

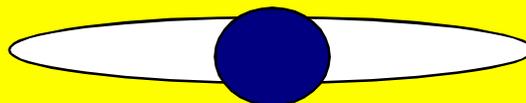
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We have some particularly lovely estate and antique jewelry that would be wonderful for any occasion!!

Flowers of the Forest

It is with great sadness that I must inform you of the passing of **Winter “Winkie” Taylor** in Marietta, GA.

Winkie had been heavily involved in piping in the Southeast and was a longtime friend to me and to many of the piping community worldwide.

In the 1990s she took over as director of the EUSPBA Southeast workshop and successfully ran the workshop for many years, building the attendance to 200-300 individuals. It was under her leadership that the Southeast Workshop had its most successful years.

She also served as chairman of the Southeast branch for several terms.

As a long time member of the Atlanta Pipe band, she was one of the key individuals who helped the APB build from a single competition unit (Grade III) to the point where they could field three competition units (III, IV, V).

When we started the student program in the APB, she was the one I appointed to run it.

She was the first instructor of the APB Grade V unit and ran its practices until she retired from the band. To help provide the highest level of instruction to individuals in the area, she proposed, organized, and was the driving force behind starting the Piping Centre's Summer Workshop in



John A. Dall, 84, of Key Circle, Waynesville, NC, passed away Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012, at the John F. Keever Jr. Solace Center in Asheville. Of Scottish descent, John was born in Lancaster County, England, the son of the late John and Margaret Lunn Dall. In addition to his parents, he was

preceded in death by a brother, Ramon Dall.

He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Flora M. Gammon; ten daughters, Allison Zimmerman, Stacy Heck, Rhiannon Bushue, Teresa Margrey (Alan), Anita Nichols (Bill), Robin Baker (Jim), Penny Huber, Margaret Dall, Marilyn Howe (Charlie), Jackie Miller (Victor); two sons, J. Kevin Dall (Billie) and Craig Dall (Jenniffer,) of Clyde; three sisters, Marilyn Huebert (Leroy), Carol Battersby and Christine Webb; 25 grandchildren, including John A. Dall and Jesse M. Dall, of Clyde; and 10 great-grandchildren.

John was a mechanical engineer who lived and worked on all continents, but retained the soft burr of his native country. He served as a British Royal Marines Commando in World War II, and also in the U. S. Army National Guard. John was a founding member of Covenant Presbyterian Church,

Orange, California, and was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Waynesville, where he served as an Elder. A life-long scouter, John was a King Scout and Woodbadger, and had served as the Roundtable Commissioner for the Pigeon River District of the Daniel Boone Council, Boy Scouts of America. He had been a leader of a co-ed Explorer Post in Orange, California.

Elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquarians (Scotland), John was also the founder and certificated teacher of the Haywood Scottish Country Dancers, who performed at many local and area festivals.

He had been an advisor to the Scottish Tartans Museum in Franklin, and an organizer and Sergeant-Major (Permanent) of the 78th Fraser

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Elliot Clan Society, USA Membership Information 2012

The Elliot Clan Society is a worldwide organization, with active branches in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States. In accordance with Scottish Clan Law, Clan membership includes all Elliots, Elliots, Elliotts, those of whose mother or grandmother was so named and their spouses. This also applies to Elliotts of known Scottish descent.

If you are a person of Scottish ancestry bearing the name Elliot, Elliott or Eliott (Including the spouse or descendant of such person) and wish to join the Elliot Clan Society, please fill out the membership form. Those forms may be found on the %Official ECS Website+ at:

www.elliotclan.com

For US residents, please make sure that you send your completed ECS USA membership forms to the Membership/Treasurer. Once you join the Society, you will receive periodic newsletters from the ECS USA and our Parent Society in Scotland. The newsletters will inform you of Scottish festivals in your area and other announcements of importance to our Clan. Membership allows you to meet other Elliotts with similar interests who share our Scottish heritage.

Contact Patricia Tennyson Bell

Email: dublincollen@sbcglobal.net or write

Patricia Tennyson Bell, Treasurer/Membership Chair

2288 Casa Grande Street

Pasadena, CA 91104

(Fortiter Et Recte)

Boldly and Rightly



Flowers of the Forest,

continued from page 17

Highlanders, Fort New Inverness Garrison.

He was also a past officer of Clan Chattan, USA.

John had recently retired as the director of the Kirking and Parade of Tartans for the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, where he and his wife received the Agnes MacRae Morton Award in 2010, for service to the games. John loved to work in leather. Besides taking a role as an extra, he made almost all the sporrans worn by the Scottish contingent of the cast in the remake of *The Last of the Mohicans*, directed by Michael Mann.

John was a Knight Grand Cross of the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem, a chivalric Christian order. He had served as collection center coordinator of the westernmost counties for Operation Christmas Child, a Christian charitable organization, and most recently, had enjoyed delivering Meals On Wheels in the Fines Creek Community.

A memorial service was held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, at First Presbyterian Church of Waynesville, with the Rev. John Lindsay officiating. The family received friends following the service at the church.

Memorials may be made to First Presbyterian Church of Waynesville, 305 N. Main Street, Waynesville, NC 28786, Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, P.O. Box 1095, Linville, NC 28646, or Meals On Wheels, 486 East Marshall Street, Waynesville, NC 28786.

Wells Funeral Homes & Cremation Services of Waynesville is in charge of arrangements. An online memorial register is available at www.wellsfuneralhome.com.

Geoffrey Squire (Glasgow / Fife / Leith, Scotland) On January 1, 2012, Geoffrey aged 88, much loved father to Romilly and Susan.

Funeral service was held at Warriston Crematorium, Edinburgh, Lorimer Chapel, on Monday, January 16, at 11 am, to which all friends were respectfully invited. Family flowers only.

The St. Andrews Society of Tallahassee,



Florida has lost several members this month.

Edgar L. Avirett, Sr. died November 17, 2011 at the age of 97. He was the father of SAS member Lee Aveirett.

William D. Monroe died October 25, 2011 at age 90. He was a longstanding member of SAS.

Clydeyne J. Nelson died: November 8, 2011 at age 80. She was a member of SAS.

Cheryl E. Stevens died: December 10, 2011. Cheryl was a member of SAS.

On September 3rd, 2011, **Patrick Wright** journeyed upward to reunite with his loving wife of 54 years, the late Betty Wright. Pat was not a man for saying ögoodbyeö and was always ready to meet a new friend and look for the next adventure.

A native of Clydebank, Scotland, his life was full of travel and stories.

Pat survived the Clydebank Blitz, and WWII as a 42nd Royal Marine Commando. Pat was a singer, poet, bagpiper, entertainer, salesman; father, grandfather, and great-grandfather to a large family; a mentor and friend to all he met..

After immigrating to Canada, then the US in the mid-1950s, he spent the last 35 years in Albuquerque, NM, where he founded Argyle Welding Supply. Clan Wallace members were very fortunate to have been present for a benefit show and dinner for the High Desert Pipes and Drums (HDP&D), our official pipe band where Pat sang.

Pat will be missed by many, but our lives have been enriched because of his presence.



clankeithusa.org
Official website of The Clan Keith Society USA, Inc

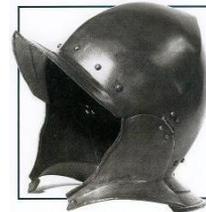


CLAN KEITH SOCIETY USA, INC.

Cordially invites membership inquiries from all descendants of the Keiths and Clan Septs: *Austin, Dickson, Falconer, Hackson, Harvey, Haxton, Hervey, Hurry, Keith, Kite, Lumgair, Mackeith, Marshall, Urie, Urry, etc. (many spelling variations)*

If you see the Clan Keith Society USA, Inc. tent at a Highland Games nywhere...be sure and come by to visit

Alice M. Hattenbrun, Secretary
The Clan Keith Society, USA, Inc.
119 South RD., Kensington, NH 03833



www.clankeithusa.org

**Clan Keith USA 2012
Annual General Meeting**
April 21st at the 19th
Rural Hill Scottish Festival
and Loch Norman Highland Games
Huntersville, North Carolina
All members are encouraged to come
and form a clan voting quorum!

records typing an email to our long suffering real estate agent - hollering to Tom all the while. I wrote to Dick: "This is the house. We knew it would show up. Please do whatever you need to do to buy it before someone else gets it! We don't have to see it in person, just buy it. QUICK."

In about 2 minutes, Dick, our realtor, was on the phone telling us he was out the door to go see the house and that he would arrange for us to go the next morning.

He did - and loved it. We did - and loved it. He wrote an offer on that house that very day. The right house had come along at the

right time, just like we knew it would!

That was maybe two months ago and the negotiations turned into stress, stress, stress for us. I told Dick at one point that I was curled in the fetal position in Tom's closet gnawing on the tails of all of Tom's Hawaiian shirt collection. (I truly wanted to do that - but did not have time.)

Dick persevered and the closing on our house is set for February 15. What a wonderful Valentine's Day present!

It will take us awhile to move. We have to modify a bathroom for Tom so that he has a

Continued on page 23

Clan Septs, continued from page 21

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

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

Notes:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Some Thoughts About Mac, Mc, Et Al

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

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

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



Clan Home Society (International)



Cordially invites membership inquiries
worldwide from all HOME, HUME & SEPTS

Information about
The Clan Home Air Force,
contact aeaton@cfl.rr.com

For information and application, write to:
Camille Simmons, President
1205 Avery Way
Kernersville, NC 27284
cbsimmons@earthlink.net



Clan MacCord Society

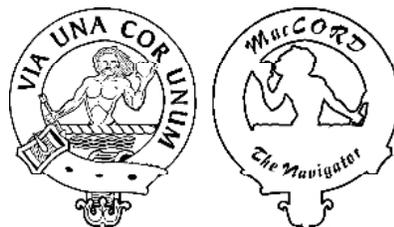
Invites for membership all spelling variations and
descendants of McCord (a)(e)(y).

Also McCourt, McChord, McCoard, Cord(e), McCart,
McCort, Cort(e)(s) and Flynn,
McFettridge and Kane.

Contact

**Ronald John
McCord**

President/Chief
1805 Mews Drive
Wilmington, NC 28405
Ph. 919-256-3798 or
rmnccord@ec.rr.com



roll-in shower. We have to have a lift to get sweet Tom from first to second floor and second to first floor. We have to rip out carpet in the Terrace Level den and master bedroom since wheelchairs and carpet do not get along. Our friend and contractor, Rocky, will see to all this.

Rocky and Dick have been with us since the beginning of this and have become real friends along the way.

Most of the large bits for the house will be delivered since we are "starting over" from pretty much scratch. However, both Tom and me and Tom's late mother collected books forever. The upstairs of Tom's house is filled to the brim with boxes of books and china and all manner of the accoutrements of my life...downstairs is likewise stuffed with things that Tom has accumulated along the way...and that have meaning to him.

Plus five cats. Plus two horses.

What a gloriously happy time for all of us, including the four-legged members of our family!

When we are moved in and have all the information like phone numbers, we'll send our Christmas card list our new address and everything else, including a few photos of the house and an invitation to come and visit.

Long ago, Tom named our new house - long before we knew what or where it was to be. It is "Mo Leannan" which is Gaelic for "My Beloved." (Thanks to Donald Macdonald for the translation!) There will be a brass plaque by the gate that will say, "Mo Leannan - Tom and Beth Freeman." You see, Colin Grant-Adams sang a song at our Handfasting back in 2007 that included the words, "I will build my love a castle." This house is as close as we could get.

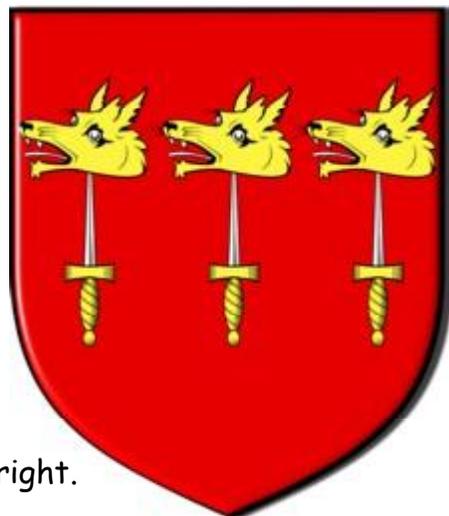
Yadd come see us!

CLAN SKENE ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Clan Skene Association, Inc.,
invites membership from SKENE and septs CARISON,
CARNEY/CARNIE, CURREHILL, DYAS, DYCE, DYER,
HALL, HALYARD/HALLYARD,
MacGAILLARD, RENNIE & SKAINS.

Dorna Comp, president
103 Sumners Alley
Summerville, SC 29485

Arms of
Danus George Moncreiff Skene of Skene
Chief of the Name and Arms of Skene to the right.



From the Highlands to High Finance - The Carolina McColls

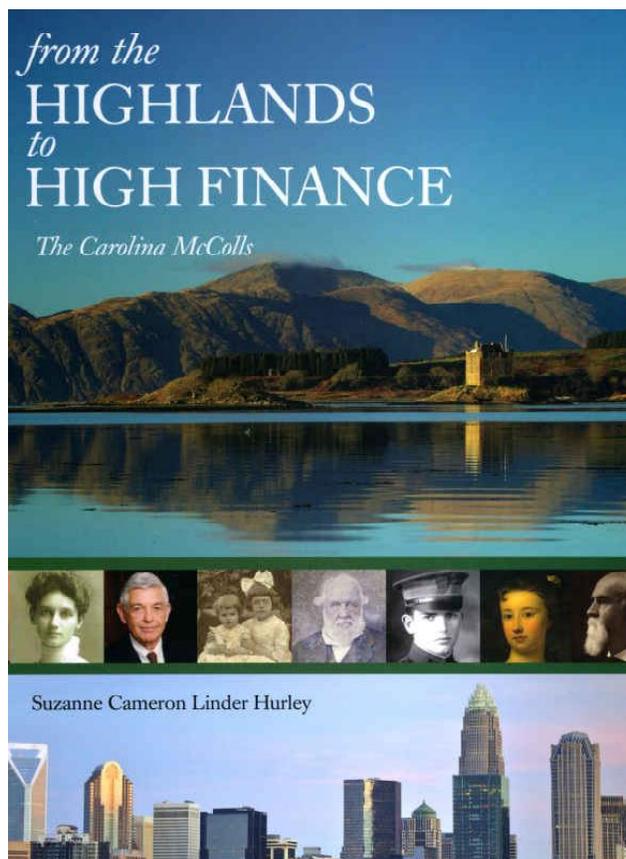
Suzanne Cameron Linder Hurley (2012)

A rich and enjoyable read, *From the Highlands to High Finance* is an essential component in understanding the significant contributions of the Scots in the Carolinas, and the country.

Illustrated with beautiful photography and archival images from the McColl Personal Collection, this comprehensive account covers sixteen centuries of history, from Colla Uais, a fourth century Irish king, to the present day Carolina McColls.

From the Highlands to High Finance offers a detailed account of clan history for all McColls (or McCalls) who trace their families to Appin, Scotland; a look at life for Scottish immigrants in America from 1775 to 1870, between the American Revolution and the end of the Civil War; and the post-war recovery of the New South, led by such men as Duncan D. McColl, Sr, his sons, and ultimately his great-grandson, Hugh McColl, Jr., under whose leadership, the Bank of America became one of the biggest, if not the biggest bank in the world.

You can order this book through our Amazon Shopping Mall - \$45.00



Famous Scots at Home and Abroad

Alastair McIntyre writes: For some time I've been interested in those many famous Scots at home and abroad and have produced numerous biographies and autobiographies with the intention of seeing if there any common threads that we can learn from.

I believe I have found common threads and in this video I discuss those.



<http://www.electricscotland.org/showthread.php/2629-Education>

National Scottish Harp Championship of America, *continued from page 1*

set an active example for my students and I hope that in doing so I can encourage many more to play Scottish music and compete in the SHSA competitions.ö

Commenting on Kelly's award-winning performance, judge Sharon Knowles said, "The cold and rainy Scottish day at the Meadow Highland Games did nothing to diminish the glorious personality and beautiful playing by Kelly. She began her set with an air arranged with delicacy and flair then rounded it off with a grand old reel played at a fiddler's pace. Congratulations to a wonderful harper and the Clan Currie Harper of the Day!ö

For a complete list of winners, visit [SHSA's List of Winners](#).

The championship was ó and will continue to be ó sponsored by the Clan Currie Society, who has entered into a five-year commitment to act as Title Sponsor for the Championships through 2014.

öWe are absolutely thrilled to have the Clan Currie Society make such a generous and long-term gift,ö said SHSA past-president Jen McGovern Narkevicius. öPart of the success of our National Championship depends upon generous donors like the Clan Currie to ensure we have sufficient funding in place to produce a first class competition. It is especially rewarding when that support comes from a clan with such an ancient and distinguished history of Gaelic poets and musicians.ö

The Society's commitment to the Scottish harp had already been well established at the Meadow Games as Clan Currie has been the annual Sponsor of the *Harper of the Day* trophy since 2004.

According to Robert Currie, president of the Clan Currie Society, the partnership with SHSA is a perfect fit. öThe founders of our Clan were the celebrated MacMhuirich bards of Medieval Scotland and the instrument of the Bard was the

clarsach. Over the past several years Clan Currie has sharpened its focus on the arts with our concerts, special events and scholarship program. In addition to sponsoring this championship, we have also established an annual harp scholarship at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow, Scotland. We look forward to becoming involved in more of these types of programs in the future.ö

About the Scottish Harp Society of America: SHSA is the sanctioning body for the U.S. National Scottish Harp Competition and qualifying regional Scottish harp competitions. The annual U.S. National Scottish Harp Competition includes the National Championship with its prestigious Herbert P. MacNeal Award, along with competition for all ages and category of competitor, from beginning to professional harpers. Through the year, the Society sponsors performances, presentations, workshops and classes, competitions, and gatherings all over the United States and Canada. Founded in 1981, SHSA is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to the Scottish harp,



the clarsach, and its music both ancient and modern. Members of the Society include musicians, harp makers, and people who simply enjoy listening to the Scottish harp. SHSA is dedicated to the performing of Scottish Music, both new and old, on the small harps of Scotland. We support the playing of nylon, gut, wire strung, levered and unlevered harps.

About the Clan Currie Society: The Clan Currie Society, an American-based, international, non-profit cultural and educational organization, is the preeminent Scottish-American cultural society in preserving and promoting Highland heritage through a growing scholarship program and at Scottish Games and festivals, as well as community groups and classrooms. The Society has

Continued on page 26



Barbra Ross Bartz, the brand new Clan Ross SE Regional Commish..

Barbra is second from left. Photo was taken at the Orlando Scottish Highland Games just a few weeks ago.

National Scottish Harp Championship of America, *continued from page 25*

over 3,000 members worldwide that gather via the Society's website (www.clancurrie.org) and at special events and clan gatherings. The Society was originally formed in Glasgow, Scotland in 1959 to further the knowledge and appreciation of the MacMhuirich (pronounced *MacVurich*) bardic dynasty.

The MacMhuirichs served for over 700 years as professional poets to the Lords of the Isles and later to the MacDonalds of Clanranald among other prominent Highland clans and families. *The Red Book of Clanranald*, one of Gaelic Scotland's literary treasures, was penned by successive generations of the MacMhuirich family. Today, the organization is a respected producer of outstanding programs and events to honor Scotland's rich culture and ancestry. The Society's signature events include The Pipes of Christmas (www.pipesofchristmas.com) ó a musical celebration of Christmas performed on bagpipes and brass, harp and fiddle, and organ ó and the annual observance of Tartan Day on Ellis Island www.tartandayonellisland.com.

In 2010, the Society hosted their first annual Clan MacMhuirich Symposium in Edinburgh, Scotland. The symposium brought together many of the luminaries in the Scots Gaelic community to interpret and celebrate the vast accomplishments of the MacMhuirich bardic dynasty which spanned nearly 700 years



The Families of Clan MacTavish Welcome You to Discover Your Scottish Heritage!



Chief Steven MacTavish

Family names associated with Clan MacTavish:
*Cash, Holmes, Kash, MacCamish, MacCash,
MacCavish, MacComb, MacCombie,
MacComich, MacComish, MaComie, Macomie,
MacCosh, MacLaws, MacElhose, MacLehose,
MacTavish, McTavish, Mactavish, Mactavis,
M'Tavish, MacThomas, Stephens, Stephenson,
Stevens, Stevenson, Tavish, Tawesson, Thom,
Thomas, Thomason, Thomasson, Thompson,
Thomson, Tod, Todd, and all variant spellings.*

We Are Clan MacTavish!



For information email: clanmactavishUSA@gmail.com

www.clanmactavish.org

The Story of the Tay Bridge

In 1879, the Tay Rail Bridge was the longest bridge in the world, spanning two miles across the Tay estuary.

On the evening of 28th December 1879, the central part of the span - the so-called high girders - suddenly collapsed, leaving a gap of well over a half-mile.

Most disturbing was that the two-year-old-bridge collapsed while an express passenger train from Edinburgh was making its way across.

The resulting accident claimed the lives of the victims, making it the most catastrophic structural failure in Britain's history.

Surprisingly, until now, there has been no memorial or monument to the victims. The Tay Rail Bridge Disaster Memorial Group was recently established to ensure that a proper and fitting memorial to the victims of the 1879 bridge disaster is constructed.

Become a Friend of the Trust

The aim of the Trust is to raise funds to erect a monument to the Victims of the Disaster. The monument will be sited on Riverside Drive, Dundee, with a complimentary plaque on the Wormit side.

At the time of the completion of the monument, a publication on the history of the disaster, the victims and the story of the monument will be issued to the Friends of the Trust. (For Friends for Life or those with at least 2 years friends donations.)

In addition to becoming a Friend of the Trust, donations are always welcome.

Corporate donations are especially welcome.

We will keep you informed of any special events and fundraisers connected with the Trust. This will be by email only, so please ensure you give us your email address when you make a donation.

Please visit our website:

www.thetaymemorial.com

Have you any stories to tell of the disaster?

Have you any other material connected with the disaster?

Please contact johnwirvine@aol.com

We would love to hear from you.

McNeills who matriculated their Arms

Barra

Roderick Macneil 1806
General Roderick MacNeil of Barra, 1824
Robert Lister Macneil, 1914/1962
Ian Roderick Macneil, 1987
Roderick Wilson Macneil

Argyll

Sir John McNeill, 1840
Major General Sir John Carstairs McNeill
John McNeill (5th of Colonsay)
Duncan McNeill, Lord Colonsay, 1867
Alexander McNeill, son of the above
Torquil Duncan Ferachar Macneal of
Ugadale, 1897
Hector Macneal of Lossit
Lachlan McNeill, 1672

Ireland & Enland

John Gordon Swift MacNeill, Cushendun
Sir John McNeill of Mount Pleasant
Sir John MacNeill, professor of practical
engineering, Trinity College Dublin
Major General James Graham Robert
Douglas McNeill, 1896
John Donald McNeile of Faughart
Ronald John McNeill Baron Cushendun,
1930

With many thanks to *The Galley*, a publication
of The Clan Macneil Association of America.





2012 CALENDAR OF SCOTTISH EVENTS, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas

Tartan Day is Friday, **April 6th**

ARKANSAS

April 13, 14 and 15 . Arkansas Scottish Festival at Lyon College in Batesville www.lyon.edu/scotfest

LOUISIANA

March 31 - Scottish Tartan Festival at Scotland Farms in Minden www.scottishsocietyla.typepad.com/

OKLAHOMA

April 27, 28 and 29 - The Iron Thistle Scottish Festival in Yukon www.uscscots.org/.htm

September 14, 15 and 16 . Oklahoma Scottish Festival in Tulsa www.tulsascottishgames.org

TEXAS

March 2, 3 and 4 - North Texas Irish Festival in Dallas www.ntif.org/

March 10 and 11 - Scottish-Irish Faire in Midland www.chspb.org/

March 31 and April 1 . San Antonio Highland Games in Helotes www.sahga.org/

April 1 . Tartan Day Ceilidh at Winfrey Point House in Dallas from 1-5 p.m. www.scotsindallas.org/index.html

May 4, 5 and 6 . Texas Scottish Festival and Highland Games in Arlington www.texasscottishfestival.com/

August 18 and 19 . Permian Basin Highland Games & Celtic Faire in Odessa www.chspb.org/

*With thanks to
Clan Donald
USA
Central South
Region
newsletter
Forward
Tobether
Linda
Tate,
editor*

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

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1).....1 YOU | 12).....2,048 ggggggggg grandparents |
| 2).....2 parents | 13).....4,096 ggggggggg grandparents |
| 3).....4 grandparents | 14).....8,192 ggggggggg grandparents |
| 4).....8 great grandparents | 15).....16,184 ggggggggg grandparents |
| 5).....16 gg grandparents | 16).....32,768 ggggggggg grandparents |
| 6).....32 ggg grandparents | 17).....65,536 ggggggggg grandparents |
| 7).....64 gggg grandparents | 18)....131,072 ggggggggg grandparents |
| 8).....128 ggggg grandparents | 19)....262,144 ggggggggg grandparents |
| 9).....256 gggggg grandparents | 20)....524,288 ggggggggg grandparents |
| 10).....512 ggggggg grandparents | 21).1,048,576 ggggggggg grandparents |
| 11).....1,024 gggggggg grandparents | 22)..2,097,152 ggggggggg grandparents |

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