



Vol. IV Issue No. 1 *Beth's Newfangled Family Tree* Section B June 2010

## St. Andrew's Society of Detroit invites you to an Evening with their Queens

The St. Andrew's Society of Detroit invites you to a fundraiser for the Queen of the

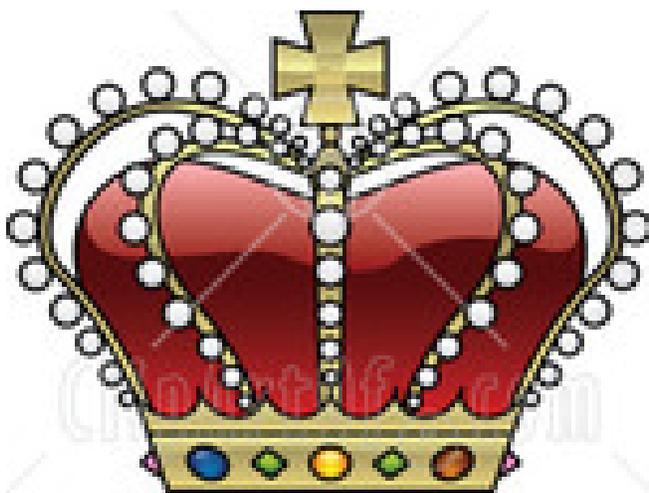
Scottish Centre, 2360 Rochester Court in Troy, Michigan.

Donations of at least \$10.00 for adults and \$5 for children will be accepted at the door.

Queens of the Highlands - past and present - will be in attendance along with Scottish Highland Dancers, bagpipers, ceilidh dances, a 50/50 raffle and lots more. There will be a competition - the Shortbread Bakeoff, so be sure and bring your best batch of shortbread.

If you would like full information, visit [www.QueenoftheHighlands.com](http://www.QueenoftheHighlands.com)

The St. Andrew's Society of Detroit is one of the most active Scottish groups in the country. Their 161st Annual Highland Games will be held this coming August 6-7 at the Greenmead Historical Park, Livonia, Michigan. More information may be found at [www.highlandgames.com](http://www.highlandgames.com)



Highlands Scholarship program on Thursday, June 17 from 7 PM until 10 PM at the Kilgour

Can you help Electric Scotland with a special project on Gairloch & Loch Maree? We want to do a special project and will be publishing two antiquarian books about the area. We are looking for stories from people and businesses in the area and also from anyone who has visited on holiday. We also want loads of pictures and/or perhaps a contact in the area that would help us with this. Please email [Alastair McIntyre](mailto:AlastairMcIntyre) if you can help or can suggest someone who might. Thanks! You can find details of the project on <http://www.electricscotland.com>

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# New Scottish pipe band in Texas

*With thanks to The Clan Leslie Society International.*

Texas has a new Scottish Pipe Band! The 51st Highland Division (Memorial) Pipe Band (headquartered out of Houston) has joined the ranks as one of Texas newest pipe bands. Our website is <http://www.51stpipers.com>.

51 HD Pipe Band is an all-volunteer, non-competitive, military (regimental) pipe band that wears British WWII Khaki drill (KD) and Battledress (BD) uniform. Membership is open to anyone 17 and older who wants to play in a “regimented, military pipe band.”

Our band, though currently forming will be taking part in Highland Games, parades and various military association and living history events. .

We would like to announce that Pipe Sergeant Neil Clark (former Scots Guards and world famous, Strathclyde Police Pipe Band) has joined our band from Scotland! Neil’s grandfather, Robert Bishop, served in 7th Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders during the Second World War. We are honored to have Neil as our primary instructor.

Please get the word out about our group and please stop by and visit our website! Michael W. “Mick” Stewart, Drum Major, 51st Highland Division (Memorial) Pipe Band

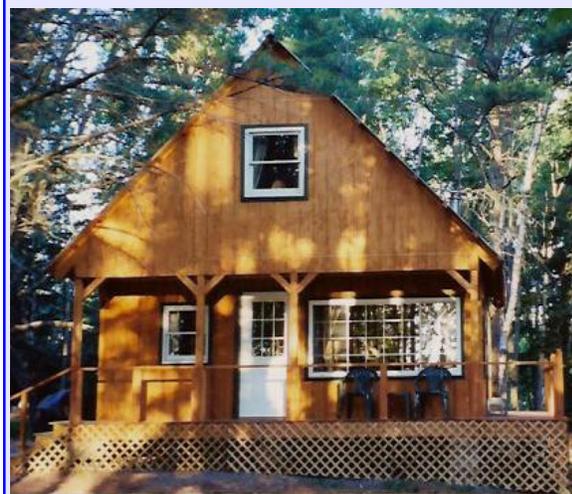
**David Leslie White, Chieftain, [clanleslie@earthlink.net](mailto:clanleslie@earthlink.net)**

## Kings Own Scottish Borderers march into history

*The KOSB marched into history in Edinburgh and surrounding towns in 2006. The KOSB was amalgamated into the 1st Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Scotland, the Royal Scots Borderers Battalion. These pictures were obtained from Rory Cooper, a professional photographer whose father Lieutenant General John Cooper DSO MBE CB was the last Colonel of the KOSB. Look at all the Leslie tartan. For more of Rory Cooper’s pictures of the KOSB’s last parade, go to [ftp://76.251.39.16/KOSB\\_pics-from-flickr.zip](ftp://76.251.39.16/KOSB_pics-from-flickr.zip)*



*With thanks to The Clan Leslie Society International.*



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# Flowers of the Forest

**Margaret Nadine Abernathy Sering**, 84, of Valdese, North Carolina died August 4, 2009. Mrs. Sering was born Aug. 14, 1924, in Burke County, daughter of the late Everette and Bessie Abernathy.

Margaret attended Enon Baptist Church and was a member of the American Indian Culture association of NC and Clan Leslie Society International.

She was a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Mrs. Sering is survived by her son, Tim Sering of Valdese; daughters, Bonnie Higgins and her husband, Brent, of Fishers, Indiana, Sandra Diedrich and her husband, Andy, of McHenry, Illinois, and Cathy Duling and her husband, Terry, of Columbus, Georgia; and eight grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren who knew her as GG and of whom she was very proud.

In addition to her husband, Robert Sering, she was preceded in death by her grandson, Jeffery Higgins.

Graveside services were held at in Enon Cemetery with the Rev. Gary Garner officiating.

*With thanks to The Clan Leslie Society International.*

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Clan Chattan is sad to report that **Richard (Dick) E. Combie** passed away last Valentine's Day in Morgan Hill, CA following a long illness.

He is survived by his daughter, Sylvia, and longtime companion, Tille Washer. He was a widely recognized and beloved figure in Scottish activities on the west coast and especially in the San Francisco bay area. He resided in San Jose for many years and was a significant figure at the Campbell Games.

He proudly served his country in Korea and rose to the rank of Sergeant Major in the Army Reserve.

Dick's Scottish heritage prompted him to become a member of Clan MacThomas and a Life Member of Clan Chattan, the Great Highland Confederation of Clans.

He was instrumental in founding the Campbell Highland Games and was Chief-

tain of the Games several times over the 25 years he participated in those games.

As a veteran, Dick belonged to the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Scottish-American Military Society.

In 2002, Dick joined the South Bay Scottish Society and was an active member until his passing.

He was a passionate Scottish-American patriot and he will be missed greatly. He was interred

at the National Cemetery in Santa Nella, California following the ceremony honoring his service. Tribute was paid by the honor guard from SAMS and piper, Ken Bain, at a very moving military funeral attended by family, friends and fellow Scots.

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Scottish tenor **Kenneth McKellar**, 82, died 9 April after being diagnosed a week earlier with pancreatic cancer.

Mr. McKellar was known for his recordings of Scots songs, particularly those of Robert Burns. He appeared in musicals on television and radio.

He was born in Paisley in 1927 and graduated from Aberdeen University with a BSc in Forestry before studying at the Royal College of Music in London. He will be most fondly remembered for his many contributions to the BBC's White Heather Club.



# Orkney -

## The Island destination of Scotland

Green fields, hills, rugged cliffs, sandy beaches and stone pinnacles rising out makes Orkney one of the most amazing Scottish hideaway. This tranquil and remote island is one of the most scenic and picturesque place for a refreshing and relaxed holiday experience. You will be spoiled of alternatives here, from a choice of attractions to countless sites to explore.

Orkney holds an ancient past dating way back to the Stone Age and Picts, you will be glad to find an array of historic sites. Being recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, Orkney treasures prehistoric villages, ancient tombs, ruined palaces and many other interesting and important sites. The stone walls, Flinstonesque furniture of Skara Brae, the tomb of Maes Howe and plenty of standing stones weaves a mystical milieu showing a glimpse of the existence at that time. Incredible it is!

You have many islands to look for here most of which are still virgin and inhabited, the scenic charm and sandy beaches will sweep you off your feet. Situated North-East tip of Scotland Orkney attracts many travelers and holiday-seekers all round the year. But summer remains the best time to come here, with a sunny climate and long days to explore and unwind the charm of this pristine place.

The friendly populace and traditional island life will make you fall in love with a lot to explore, we have listed few of the top places to visit in Orkney :

**Birsay** – Located at the North-Western tip of the mainland, Birsay is a village which holds the

famous Earls Palace dating back to 1570. There is a lot to see and do in Birsay with much more ancient sites and attractions to look for.

**Rousay** – With so much to see and do in the mainlands most of the visitors do stick to the mainlands in Orkney, but unaware of the fact that there is lot more to explore and experience on other less populated islands. Rousay is a charming island which can be visited by a ferry from Tingwall. The most famous attraction on Rousay remains the Midhowe, which is not one attraction but two; an Iron Age broch of quite striking size stands a few yards away from a long chambered cairn. The cairn, which is housed under a protective modern building, is quite astonishingly long, making it easy to see why it was handed the moniker ‘Ship of Death’. So don’t miss it!

**Yesnaby** – Being the site of a military battery in World WarII, the place still signifies that historic battle, its marine landscape and cliffs adds to its charm. You also have those sea stacks, natural arches and blowholes to look for here. Perfect place to be on a summer night!

**The Tomb of the Eagles** – The tomb of the eagles remains a unique site in Orkney with many reasons to visit, the custom built visitor centre is good to visit, there are guides to tell about the place and assistance. This tomb also helps visitors to handle the exhibits and offers many activities for all types of tourists.

You can come by air, road or rail routes, believe us by air wonderful aerial views of the islands awaits you, fly easily with Flybe flights (op-

*Continued on page 7*





**Dunstaffnage Castle and Loch Etive**

1897

Thought everyone would like to see this beautiful painting from Alastair's weekly newsletter on ElectricScotland. You'd be surprised at all the interesting and amazing things you'll see and read about there - including notice when a new *Beth's Newfangled Family Tree* is "up" on the site.

**Orkney**, continued from page 6

erated by Loganair) from all major British airports and good inbound links from European and North American destinations. You can also travel by car or on foot, by coach or train and ferry, there are



many ways to reach to this wonderful location. The spectacular highlands of Scotland, or sailing from Aberdeen will be something you will remember for a long, long time.



*A Highlander*

*And His Books*

# Jura: Island of Deer

by Peter Youngson

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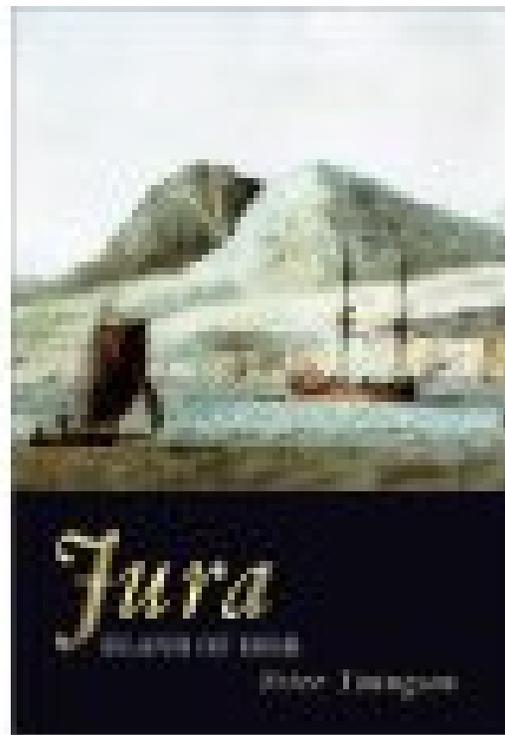
Reviewed by

**Frank R. Shaw, FSA Scot**

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Until now, the only book of substance written on the Isle of Jura was by Donald Budge. Published in 1960, his book has become a classic. It is now out of print, very difficult to find, quite pricey and, more than likely, it is out of the price range of many people. I've only known of two copies to come on the market in the last ten years and both sold for \$100 or more. Budge's book is one that book owners do not lend! Until now, other than the fairly recent and excellent work of Gordon Wright and Norman Tait, who published pictorial books or small pamphlets about Jura, there is not much on the market that would give one a concise portrait of what the Bard of Jura, Neil Shaw, referred to in his epic poem, *Crossing To Jura*, as the "Dearest Island under Heaven". Until now, a major work has never been written about Jura. Until now...

Peter Youngson has changed all that with his 550-page book on Jura that is definitive, easily read, not nearly as expensive, and one that gives the reader a feeling of having "been there" when he or she has finished reading the book. Who is Mr. Youngson? He served the Jura Parish Church from 1975–1988. Any of you who have been fortunate



to dip your toes into the waters of the Sound of Jura probably visited the Parish Church. In a back room of the church, there are walls lined with pictures of Jura residents through the years that will take you back in time as few events will. This is Peter Youngson's work, a gift to all of us before he left Jura.

Why, you may ask, are you reviewing a book about a small isle that basically has not even been discovered by Scotland's own people? Easy answer. Hundreds of people left Jura over the years to settle throughout various places on the eastern shores of the Atlantic Ocean, but mostly they found their way up the Cape Fear River in North Carolina. They settled around what is now Fayetteville, branching out into Cumberland County (yes, that one named "Butcher" of Culloden) and later into Bladen County, where my ancestors settled straight off the boat from Jura. The Governor of North Carolina was giving land away and, for people who did not even have the proverbial pot, this was a gift from heaven. It is stated in *Scots Magazine* that in 1768 "between forty and fifty families have gone from the island of Jura for Cape Fear in Carolina to settle thereabout and in Georgia." This happened over and over.

*Continued on page 9*

# You've got to be kidding!

One in five people in Britain thinks that haggis, the traditional Scottish dish made from the lung, liver and heart of a sheep, is an animal that roams the Highlands, according to a survey released last month.

Commissioned by the online takeaway food service, Just-Eat.co.uk, the survey found that 18% of Britons believe that haggis is a hilltop-dwelling animal. Another 15% said it is a Scottish musical instrument while 4% admitted to thinking it was a character from Harry Potter.

The survey questioned 1,623 people across

Britain to see how well they were acquainted with traditional Scottish food. Even 14% of the 781 Scottish people polled said they did not know what haggis was. Shame on the Scots!

That's what they get by believing the many stories circulating every January during annual Burns Suppers. Robert Burns must be turning in his grave!

With thanks to *Celtic Seasons*, Rich and Rita Shader, 2593 Chapparral Drive, Melbourne, FL 32934. Contact them to subscribe at [Celtichighlander@msn.com](mailto:Celtichighlander@msn.com)

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## Jura: Island of Deer, *continued from page 8*

Youngson has done the Scottish community a great favor by writing this book. It is more than just a book about a small, neglected Hebridean Isle. It is about a way of life on this Scottish island that was mirrored in both the Outer and Inner island communities of the Hebrides. It tells of the problems faced while scratching out a meager living under sad circumstances and how later the people of Jura had to endure the hard line of management they lived under when the Campbells of Jura took possession of the island from the MacDonalds. These hard working people would have qualified for food stamps in today's world. They would be some of the same people some of us ridicule in the grocery store.

You will read about the man who killed Lachlan Mor, a Jura man, "a dwarf hatched by the devil," who offered his services to Maclean only to be insulted by Lachlan and told he would disgrace his followers with such a contemptible figure. Dubhsith, as he was called, went over to the MacDonald's side, was warmly welcomed and later, during battle, let go an arrow that found its mark just beneath the armpit of Lachlan. His decision to insult the little man cost him his life.

Citing the *Manuscript History of Craignish*, the author tells the story of the fight between the Shaws and Campbells. John Dou Campbell was killed by the Shaws. The "why?" is not mentioned. Later Ronald Campbell and his men slew fifteen

Shaws in revenge "not sparing the chief of them although at the time married to his own sister". Ronald, now being afraid of his neighbors, ran straight to the Earl of Argyll for protection. In 1604, a bond was signed by both parties forgiving each other of the slaughter with a penalty of 1,000 merks for breaking the bond. I do not know how much a "merk" was back then, but it must have been a sizable amount since, as far as I know, the peace between the Campbells and Shaws was never broken.

Following in the footsteps of the Bard of Jura, Neil Shaw, this book could easily have been entitled *JURA: Dearest Isle Under Heaven*. What a great book to have as fall approaches, when the days and nights put a chill in the air, and we don sweaters and coats, make hot soup, and settle down by the fireplace with this good book in hand for a nice read. You'll spend a little time with Youngson's book, but you will be glad you did so. My son, Scott, gave me a cup a few years ago that quotes Thomas Jefferson: "I cannot live without books," and *JURA: Island of Deer* fits into that category.

I paid £34.75 (\$51.78 @ \$1.49 per pound) to Fiona, a friend on Jura, for the book, including shipping. The book was published in 2002 by Birlinn Ltd ([www.birlinn.co.uk](http://www.birlinn.co.uk)) in Edinburgh, Scotland, ISBN 1 84158 136 4.

*There are a few copies as of 25 May 2010 at amazon.com - both new and used.*

## You're invited to...Nature Study (a camp for student writers) at Rural Hill in NC

Camps limited to 20 rising 6th – 9th grade students per week. Camp Overview: Nature Study is a 4 day camp that strives to give young student writers in grades 6 – 9 an experience in creative writing like none other.

Each day will be filled with thoughtful reflection, reading, hiking, writing, and activities on nature, history, and the student's surrounding world. This camp is not a remedial writing camp, but one that urges students to develop their creativity and self-expression.

If your student loves reading and/or writing about the outdoors, this is the camp for them!

Note: at the week's end the writing that the student chooses as their best will be collected by Rural Hill staff. At the end of the summer, all writings will be published in a collection and available for purchase.

A typical day is as follows: At 9:00 students arrive and meet in group. After a quick "check-in" the students will read and discuss a piece of literature involving nature and/or history. These may be contemporary works or those of antiquity. At that time students will choose a place to go on the "Snail's Trail", a three mile trail that encircles Rural Hill's property, winding through forest and fields alike. Once they reach their destination, the day's creative writing will begin.

An hour's lunch will be followed by a program in fence building (math and teamwork), dye making (science and recycling), or fire building

(history and creative thinking).

Each day will have a separate program taught, with the fourth day program being replaced by a guest speaker. Students will finish at 3:00

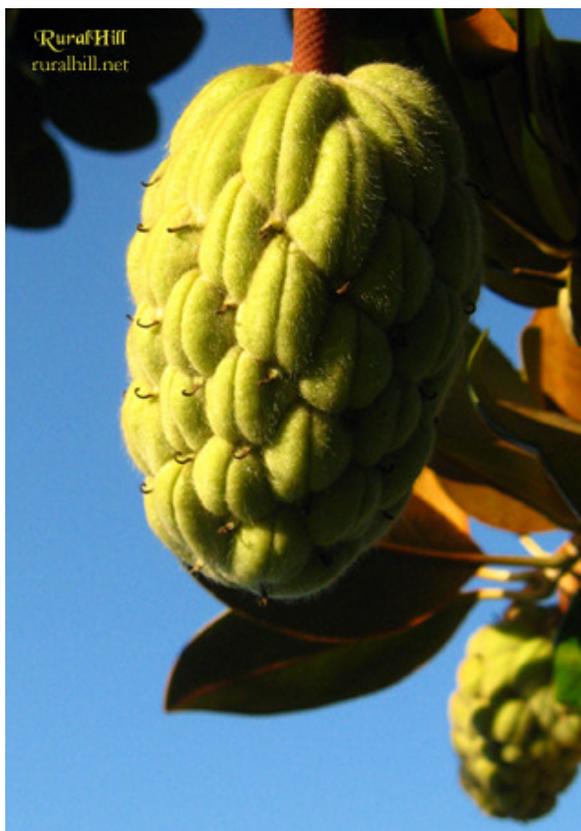
About the Instructor Zac Vinson, director of education at Rural Hill, has a BA in fine arts and is currently writing his thesis for a MA in arts administration.

Born and raised in rural Gaston County, he has always had an intense love for the outdoors, history, and what the two teach. An avid reader and writer, Vinson lives in Gaston County with his wife Kathy and two sons, Avett, three, and Liam, one.

Cost and Payment The cost of the camp is \$110 per student. Payment is required to reserve student's spot. Please call with payment (704-875-3113) or mail a check/completed payment form to PO Box 1009,

Huntersville, NC 28070. There will be no refunds unless class is canceled by Rural Hill Staff.

Things to Remember Students will need to bring lunches each day, refrigerators and freezers are available. Students should dress appropriately for daily medium level hiking through field and forest, wear comfortable shoes, and bring rain gear if inclement weather is called for. Mail, bring, or fax forms to Rural Hill – PO Box 1009, Huntersville, NC 28070. Fax # 704-875-3193.



# Scottish election results

## - and thoughts - from Danus Skene of Skene

With thanks to Danus Skene of Skene. Used here with his permission. Danus wanted me to be sure and make a note that this article was written on May 13, 2010. At the moment, he is traveling in Kenya. (*I am a Skene through my family of Dyess and have served as the Dyess genealogist for Clan Skene for a long, long time. Your ed.*)

Well, my friends, we now have an election result...I had a number of interested and interesting responses to my note of a couple of days ago, before the election, and I know it was put out on a couple of other people's networks in the US.

I am encouraged to continue the story.

The overall UK result, led by England (which is well over 80% of the UK electorate) was:

- \* Conservative (Cameron) 306 MPs - 36% of the vote

- \* Labour (Brown) 28% - 29% of the vote

- \* LibDem (Clegg) 57 - 23% of the vote

- \* All others 28 - 12% of the vote

Compared to the last opinion polls before the election, this is a slightly stronger Conservative performance than foreseen, and a weaker LibDem one. The Labor vote is the smallest percentage of the electorate in modern times, but actually held up better than seemed likely a couple of weeks ago.

Clegg is behaving in a principled manner. His approach is that, as the largest party, the Conservatives have the right to seek to form a government first, and he is therefore talking to them. That is in spite of the fact that the

LibDems probably have more in common with Labour than with the Conservatives, and the LibDem leadership will have trouble selling to their supporters the prospect of cooperation with the Conservatives.

Cameron will also have problems. Many Conservatives ("Tories") will stiffly resist any cooperation with the LibDems, and will certainly oppose any concessions to them, such as forming a coalition with some Liberals in the Cabinet, or conceding key demands from the LibDems such as reform of the electoral system.

Time for a reality check by the entrenched partisan supporters. If Cameron wants to govern, he is going to have to make concessions to the LibDems. That will mean moderating his approach to the national economic crisis, where the Tory line is to cut public expenditure drastically and fast. Labor and LibDems argue the (Keynesian) line that cuts must be postponed until we can be sure that there will not be a "double-dip" recession if Government cuts expenditure. The other key LibDem demand will be electoral reform. On this, the moral and logical argument is firmly on their side, but traditional Toryism argues against it: how would they ever gain absolute power ever again?

But, if Cameron does not make any concessions to the LibDems, they will argue that they cannot work with him, and

will turn to Brown, who has already promised elec-



*Continued on page 12*

## Scottish election results, continued from page 11

toral reform as an acceptable price for a Lib-Lab pact. A difficult choice faces Clegg and his colleagues - share some real power by working with Cameron, or achieve the dream of political reform by working with Labour. The one thing that seems certain to me is that if the LibDems refuse to cooperate with either of the others, they will be blamed by the electorate for allowing weak government, and probably causing another election soon.

Meanwhile, Brown remains Prime Minister until it is clear that he cannot form a government that commands a parliamentary majority - and someone else can. The UK system does not allow a situation in which there is no government in office. And right now that is Brown, even though right now, he is in effect an unpopular loser.

My own view is that Cameron will most likely be the next Prime Minister, possibly in formal coalition with the LibDems, but more likely with an informal arrangement for their support on key votes. Although Brown has undoubtedly "lost" the election, it remains a third possibility that there could be a Lib-Lab pact. It would be more acceptable to the wider public if that only happened if it involved a change in the leadership of the Labor Party - Brown goes.

But what of Scotland? Scotland has not followed the rest of the UK. Out of 59 Scottish MPs, the result is:

- \* Labour 41 MPs 42% of the vote (up 3%)
- \* LibDem 11 19% (down 4%)
- \* Scottish National Party 6 MPs 20% (up 2%)
- \* Conservatives 1 PM 15% of the vote

This was actually a slight move of voter opinion towards Labor and from Conservative. The

LibDems performed weakly, and the SNP achieved very little. The net result in the number of MPs representing each party was exactly unchanged from 2005.

This result raises an old and familiar ghost - if we assume a UK government led by Cameron. A Conservative government in London is not seen in Scotland as having a legitimate mandate to govern the country. They only have 1 MP, and 14% support. In my earlier, short note, I suggested that such a situation might be a prescription for a significant move towards Scottish independence.

Let's think about this a bit more carefully by looking at the position of each party.

Cameron will have to move carefully. If he takes steps that are profoundly unpopular in Scotland, he could make himself responsible for a further step towards Scottish independence, just as Thatcher (always regarded by the vast majority of Scots as the ultimate enemy of their country) was in a real sense responsible for provoking the reestablishment of the Scottish Parliament.

An example of an "uncareful step" would be to follow the line that his Finance colleague George Osborne took during the election - that a Conservative UK government had no need to inform or consult the Scottish government before cutting its funding transfer from London.

Labour are very pleased with their Scottish results. Faced with a sense of threat, the Scottish voter, and particularly the urban blue collar voter, has returned to his or her traditional home. But these Scottish Labour MPs

*Continued on page 13*



Labour



will be in no position to defend Scottish interests in the face of a Tory government. They will be a part of a demoralized UK opposition, and with no levers to pull to defend or deliver positive results for their Scottish Supporters. If by some chance Labour do survive as part of a UK government, it will have to implement public expenditure cuts and Labour support will suffer for that.

The Scottish LibDem danger is that they may come to be seen by Scots as propping up an unpopular UK Tory government. They have been weakened in Scotland, and a year of identification with the Tories could see them savaged in next year's Scottish elections.

The SNP argue for independence. In one view, they only have to sit and wait and watch everything go wrong for the others. A Scottish people who feel under attack from London and who are not defended by Labour or LibDem will surely turn to the SNP and their solution of withdrawal from the UK?

Well...maybe.

Meanwhile, the SNP have to run a Scottish administration whose funding will be cut and that won't help their popularity. Add to that the weak platform of support with which they come out of this election and their position is not that rosy. What they do have is clear association with a stance against the Iraq and Afghan wars and opposition to renewal of the (UK) nuclear deterrent - both of which are majority views in Scotland. Without drilling into more detail, it is possible,

as you see, to paint a gloomy picture for Scotland and for all its political groups as we enter the next period. That will not lead to independence "by magic". What will happen is a gradual build up of a sense of separateness from London and its politics. Scottish values, ambitions and needs will diverge increasingly from the "UK" (English) mainstream. The tectonic plates will inch away from each other. This will make pro-independence sentiment work up from the present 35% (or so), and make probably an increase in autonomy under whatever government succeeds this one.

Two or three of you have asked what I think myself.

Well, for the first time in my life, I voted SNP in a general election.

Short-term logic: to try and secure the maximum defense of my country against the storm coming from any London government that, in turn, is faced with the UK's debt problem.

Long-term logic: independence is a saner prospect for the management of Scotland than is the present asymmetric dependence on a larger state - whether you think of that as England, or as some kind of imperial left-over called "Britain."

My biggest fear is that Scotland's people become more and more cynical about a political system that is beyond their control, and in our own way we wobble into the kind of nightmare the Greeks are in. Independence yes, But, please God, in a negotiated, gradual and peaceful

manner.

Stay well.



# The Drums are Drumming and Clan Albannach is Coming (With Brother Too)

Tens of thousands Scots will pour onto MacRae Meadows at Grandfather Mountain July 8-11 for 55 solid year of excellence at the Grandfather Mountain highland Games. The tradition of the games dates back to the 11th century some say.

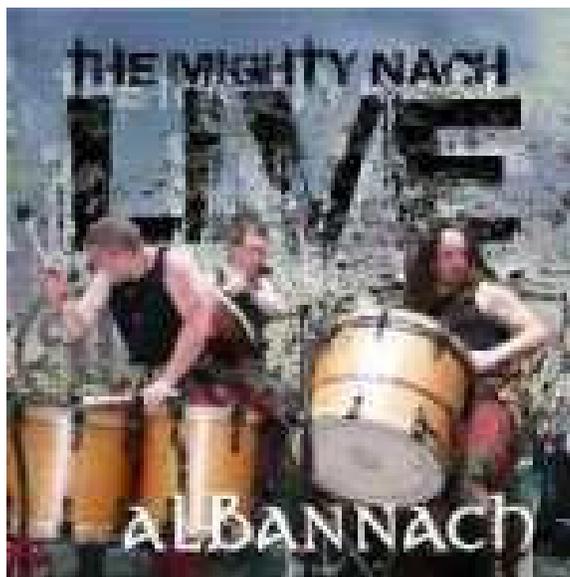
Founded on Grandfather in 1956 by former reporter Donald MacDonald and Agnes MacRae Morton, mountain founder Hugh Morton's mother, the celebration of Scottish dance, music and athletics attracts more than 110 Scottish clans and societies to this gathering. The estimated annual attendance is 30,000 and Grandfather's gathering, while not the highest attended overall, has the largest gathering of Scottish clans in the world. General Manager Frank Vance has often said, "this is a ten horse event in a one horse town."

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, Inc. sponsors the yearly event. Its mission "to carry and promote the annual Grandfather Mountain Highland Games and Gathering of Scottish Clans, to foster and restore interest in traditional dancing, piping, drumming, athletic achievement, music and Gaelic culture, and to establish scholarship funds to assist students from Avery County high School to study at American colleges and universities."

The games will begin at 4:30 p.m. July 8th and the day will include a picnic, sheep herding, a five-mile footrace called the Bear: Assault on Grandfather, Scottish music, and the opening torchlight ceremony at dusk, during which each participating clans arrival will be announced.

Activities throughout the weekend include highland dancing exhibitions, sheep herding, Celtic

music, the Grizzly Bike Race, [a 65 mile trek from Grandfather to Beech Mountain and back] the Mountain Marathon beginning in Boone, piping, athletic and track and field events, Scottish instruments playing, children's activities, the Parade of Tartans and more.



"The whole idea is to celebrate Scottish culture," said Catherine Morton, PR director at Grandfather Mountain, "They have dance and music and athletic competitions. They have bagpipe bands and sheep herding exhibitions. Then on Friday night and Saturday night there are concerts up on the field with Celtic rock bands.

Music will feature groups like Albannach, Albannach, Brother, Clandestine, Colin Grant

Adams, Ed Miller, Jill Chambliss, Scooter Muse, the Forget Me Nots, Mother Grove, RG Absher & Celtic Connection, Teribus, The Blessed Blend, and maybe more. Plus this year we are featuring of Jack Tales fame, Orville Hicks. He will be telling Jack Tales in the mountain dialect (which is very close to the language of the old country) throughout the games.

Advance tickets to the Highland Games can be purchased prior to June 15th by mail, by phone using a credit card, or by using the secure online order form found on the organization's web site at [www.gmhg.org](http://www.gmhg.org). Tickets also may be purchased with cash at the gate upon arrival or by cash, debit or credit at the GMHG office in Linville. Tickets for the Scottish Country Dance Gala held Friday night at Lees McRae can be purchased at the door at Williams Gymnasium.

*Continued on page 15*

## The Drums are Drumming, *continued from page 14*

A four-day advance pass is \$55 for adults and \$25 for children. Children under 5 are not charged admission. If not purchasing a four-day pass before June 15th, individual events each have separate admission prices.

Parking is available until filled Thursday and Friday at MacRae Meadows on a first-come-first-serve basis. Only Patrons or Sponsors have special parking privileges on Saturday and Sunday. Shuttles will be provided for a fee from Watauga

High School in Boone (only Saturday), the Linville Parking lot off of N.C. 105 behind the post office, and Avery County High School in Newland. Shuttle bus fees go to help Crossnore Fire Department and Appalcart Busing.

Grandfather Mountain is located on U.S. 221, two miles north of Linville and one mile south of the Blue Ridge Parkway at milepost 305. For more information on the Highland Games, visit [www.gmhg.org](http://www.gmhg.org).

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For membership contact:

PO Box 393, Stone Mountain, GA 30083

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The Clan Keith Society, USA, Inc.  
119 South RD

Kensington, NH 03833

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# Dibs & Dabs...Bits & Pieces...A Little of This and a Little of That!

## 1890 census fragments are very useful today!

We should not forget the 6,160 names that did survive the fire are from Alabama, District of Columbia, Georgia, Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Dakota and Texas. They are indexed on M496, two rolls and filmed on M407 on three rolls.

## Interested in Cornish ancestry?

Those interested in more information about their Cornish relatives, may be able to get some help from the North Texas Cornish Society.

To join the Society or for more information, contact Larry Howser, 2910 Vineyard Drive, Arlington, Texas 76015-2027.



Coca-Cola was originally green.

Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than the U.S. Treasury.

Hershey's Kisses are called that because the machine that makes them looks like it's kissing the conveyor belt.

The state with the highest percentage of people who walk to work: Alaska. Average number of people airborne over the U.S. any given hour: 61,000.

The most commonly used password on computer systems is "password."

## The Official Clan Macfie Facebook page is ready!

Glen Cathey has recently put up  
The Official Clan Macfie Facebook page  
and it is ready for you to join and participate.  
You can see some Youtube of the Clan Parliament at  
Nethybridge. This is the link: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Official-Clan-Macfie-Page/177565770680>

## *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](mailto:general_ly@yahoo.com) or  
[www.clancrawford.org](http://www.clancrawford.org)



# Can anyone help with Russell family?

I have the following lines: **BARNWELL, BYRD, STRICKLAND, RUSSELL, WHITE, WATKINS and WEAVER.** I believe that **RUSSELL** and **STRICKLAND** might possibly be Scottish. Am I correct? I am quite interested in the **RUSSELL** Family, since my great-grandfather married in Hall County, Georgia, in 1824 to **MARTHA RUSSELL** and his brother married a **MARY RUSSELL.** I think they came to

Georgia from South Carolina. I would love to hear from anyone who could help me with information about them. **Ms. Marion E. Watkins, 1434 Hawthorne Way, East Point, GA 30344-1749.**

*If you have a query you'd like published, it's the easiest thing in the world to do. Just send it to [bethscribble@aol.com](mailto:bethscribble@aol.com) There's no charge. Your query will be published in the next issue of BNFT.*

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Rex Harrison's son, Noel was on the United Kingdom Alpine Skiing Olympic Team in 1952.

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# Greenville (SC) Scottish Games 2010





# Greenville (SC) Scottish Games 2010



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# HIGHLAND GAMES -

## A brief history. They are alive and well at Grandfather Mountain

For nearly a thousand years, clansmen, chiefs and competitors met to compete in ancient Celtic sports at a spot in County Meath, Ireland, called Teltown. Later, descendants of those same Irish Celts migrated across the Irish Channel and took their various sports with them. These people were known as the “Scotti.”

These were the people who later named their country “Scotland.” These clansmen banded together to compete against one another in what is often defined as one of the most rigorous forms of competitions in the world, “the Highland Games.”

The Highland Games did not evolve easily. In the beginning stages at these clan gatherings only the arts of sport and battle were displayed.

According to tradition, one of the first Highland Games was held toward the end of the Eleventh Century when King Malcolm Canmore became concerned about the way in which important news and documents were delivered to his highland retreat. He needed strong, healthy runners who were full of stamina. To achieve this, he had them race against one another over rocky terrain to the top of Creag Choinnich, which is Gaelic for Kenneth’s Crag. The winner received a beautiful baldric sword, a purse of gold and the title of the King’s Messenger.

Indeed, this somewhat rustic clan gathering became what we now know as the “Highland Games.”

As the Scots emigrated throughout the World,

they brought with them their love of the traditional Highland Games. It was only natural that Highland Games would soon spring up wherever the Scots settled. Today, the Highland Games touch many areas and lives of people in the USA, Canada and throughout the world.



But nowhere do they touch the Celtic imagination like the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. On this ancient mountain, considered by many experts to be the oldest in the world, these games seem to step back in time and touch the Celtic spirit in all who attend and participate. There is a phrase

that is used in several Gaelic songs that has a double meaning we believe invokes this magical place where these games are held. BEINN SEANAIR: CARRAIG NAN ‘AL which can mean “Grandfather Mountain: rock of the generations,” but it can also mean “rock of rocks.”

High in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina, the ancient Celtic spirit beckons. Answering the call, as hundreds of tartan banners unfurl, are the sounds of bagpipes echoing through the valley, and once again, thousands of kilt-clad Scots make their way to MacRae Meadows for their annual gathering and games.

Nowhere in the New World is there a place more reminiscent of the Scottish Highlands than the home of America’s grandest Highland Games—BEINN SEANAIR [Grandfather Mountain] “America’s Braemar.”

*Continued on page 25*



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## Grandfather Mountain, *continued from page 23*

Ceud mile failte [“A hundred thousand welcomes”] to you and your family as you join us in celebrating the heritage, culture and history of our Scottish ancestry. You will cheer as you watch the clans compete on the Mountain and in the Meadows. You will experience the agony and triumph on Thursday Evening as over 800 runners participate in the “Bear” A five mile fell [hill] race. Starting at Linville, turning right and up the Yonahlossee Road {Cherokee for “passing black bear”}, across MacRae Meadows then up Grandfather around Forrest Gump curve to the Swinging Bridge at the top of the mile-high mountain.

On Friday, you will cheer as hundreds of bicycles leave MacRae Meadows charging off the mountain across the Linville River Valley. They cross Davis Mountain at Crossnore, then on to the North Toe River Valley and Elk River area. Then it is up the backside of 6,000 foot Beech Mountain — following much of Lance Armstrong’s old training runs for the Tour de France. They then cross the top of the Beech coming down into the Valley of the Elk [Banner Elk] then crossing to the of Fields of Toe [Newland]. At Newland they turn left toward Bull Scrape, known today as Montezuma. Dropping down to Linville they go through the red light and head up the last two miles

to finish on MacRae Meadows. It is called “The Grizzly” for good reason. The Grizzly is a beautiful and challenging route with 7000 feet of climbing in 65 miles.

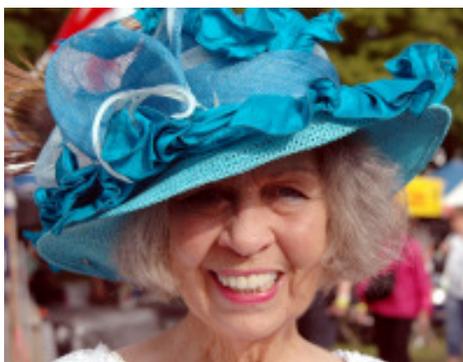
On Saturday morning at Kidd-Brewer Stadium in Boone, N.C. the Grandfather Mountain Marathon begins the third leg of one of North America’s hardest triathlons. The rugged beauty and tradition of the Highland Games continues to

provide an excellent showcase for dedicated marathoners. Every year the GMM’s reputation as “America’s ”toughest” marathon attracts runners from around the country and the world. These marathoners share the same traits as their Scottish ancestors. It has been said by many former marathoners that Grandfather Mountain Highland Games has the greatest finish in

the world for a marathon. They begin to hear the bagpipes eight to ten miles from MacRae Meadows. The pipes add strength and stamina to the tired runners as they strain on the final miles of the race – the last thirteen being all uphill. There is nothing like finishing to bagpipe bands, flags unfurled and thousands cheering.

Throughout the four-day weekend, you and your family will sample Celtic music, which will take you back ‘to the day.’ This music includes

*Continued on page 27*



### MacDuffee Clan Society of America, Inc. Of Clan MacFie

Organized July 1962



Registrar:  
Marty Rosser  
336-275-8619  
martyrosser50@aol.com

Annual General Meeting each year in July  
at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games

Genealogy Chairman: Richard Ledyard  
865-671-2555 rledyard@tds.net

Treasurer: David Nathan McDuffie  
678-557-9215 dnmcduffie@hotmail.com





## Coastal Georgia Genealogical Society invites you to Brunswick

The next meeting of the Coastal Georgia Genealogical Society will be at the Brunswick Library on Saturday, July 10th from 10:00 to 12:00.

The Heritage Room is available for our use, along with others who may need assistance with their research. Diane Jackson of the library staff said they have received new materials in the room from Camden County Library, as they have eliminated their genealogy collection. She

showed me a large set of books on Civil War records from the Camden Library, among other new items.

The Brunswick Library Heritage Room (at the foot of Gloucester Street) features a wealth of ge-

**Grandfather Mountain**, *continued from page 23* bagpipes wailing with drums marking time, harps and fiddles playing ancient tunes. There are also highland dancers competing, American and Scottish foods, track and field events for professionals, amateurs and events in which the children can compete for their clan. You may discover your family's fighting colours [Tartans and kilts] and the Clan or Sept to which you belong. This is a weekend full of family fun, discovery, entertainment and excitement that will have you longing for the "old country" and singing "These Are My Mountains."

"Come join us where the family circle remains unbroken at MacRae Meadows at BEINN SEANAIR: CARRAIG NAN 'AL. Be a part of the most wonderful, colorful, cultural event in North America, and perhaps in the world. Join us at MacRae Meadows on Grandfather Mountain and celebrate your heritage with us on July 8th through July 11th, 2010.



nealogy materials, especially for the states of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. Also, there is a large

collection of genealogical-historical periodicals from a number of states. A computer is available in the room with the Library Edition of ancestry.

The following websites give helpful information on working

with old photos:

[www.cyndislist.com/photos.htm](http://www.cyndislist.com/photos.htm) A long list of various articles to inform you!

[www.familychronicle.com/dating.html](http://www.familychronicle.com/dating.html) At the bottom of this article is a group of old photographs from a series of different decades. Compare the clothing and hair styles to your photos.

[www.ehow.com](http://www.ehow.com) search for old family photographs

[www.genealogy.about.com](http://www.genealogy.about.com) enter old photographs at the top

[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) Click on Learning Center, then on article archives and enter words old photographs under search topics, for a long list of articles.

There are many different aspects to consider with old family photographs: identifying the people, preserving the photos, improving the images, sharing the images and organizing the photos to name a few!! Thanks to those who brought a family photograph to share. We will continue to share ideas concerning photographs at future meetings.

Everyone is invited to the CCGS meetings. There is no charge.

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Friday, June 18: Saturday, June 19  
and Sunday, June 20

Friday, June 18 - 6 PM FREE Ceilidh  
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The Knobby Knees Contest  
ArtsSaturday for the Kids - 11 AM - 2 PM  
Scottish Food and Vendors  
Bill Coburn & his Border Collies  
Saturday, June 19 Evening The Balybeg Band & Bear Notes  
Celtic Beer Tasting

Sunday, June 20 Kirkin' o' the Tartans 11 AM  
First Presbyterian Church  
Family Day at the Scottish Tartans Museum starting at 1:30 PM

Contact 828-524-7472 or [www.tasteofscotlandfestival.org](http://www.tasteofscotlandfestival.org) for information.

# Clan Home invites you to luncheon

Arrangements have been made for all Clan Home members and prospective members who plan to attend the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games to gather at Nick's Restaurant and Pub for lunch at 12:00 noon on Friday, July 9, 2010. Nick's is located at the Shoppes of Tynecastle, at the intersection of Highway 105 and 184 in Banner Elk, NC.

The Clan Home Annual General Meeting will be held at Nick's Restaurant and Pub following the lunch and will begin at about 1.30 PM.

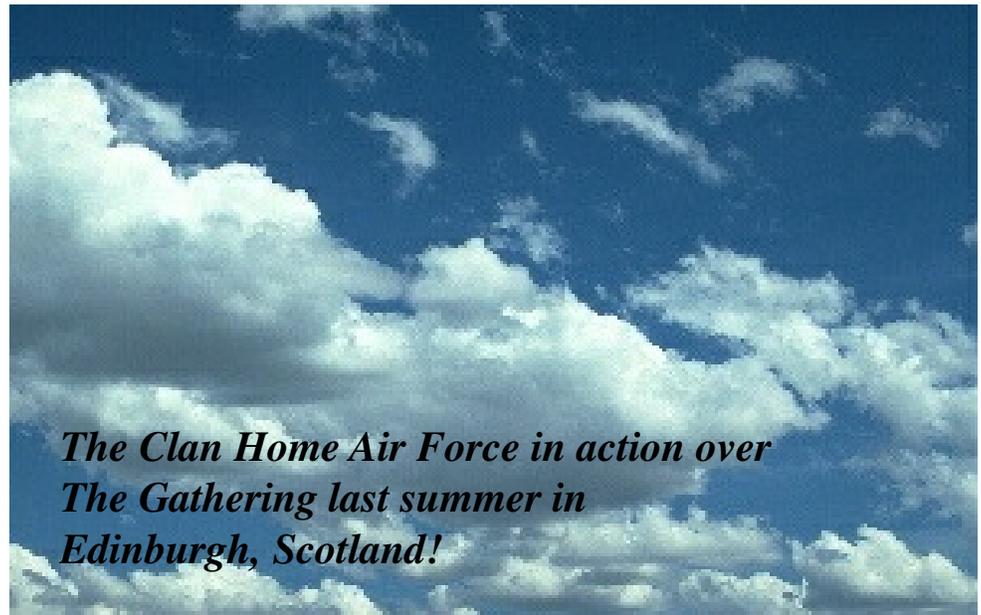
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If you are the first member of your Clan to join the air force, you become the Air Com-

mander for the Clan Whatever Squadron. There are now over 100 members of the air force who perform "fly overs" at Highland Games around the world. The air force is very proud of its force of stealth Sopwith Camels and pilots who are all instrument rated.

Next time you're at a Highland Games, look to the sky and see if you can see those



stealth aircraft.

If you'd like, you may order the beautiful Clan Home Air Force Wings, 2-inches wide (Same size as the Canadian Air Force wings in honor of the Canadian heritage of our Air Marshal) with tie tack backing. They are beautiful. Just add \$22.50 for each set ordered. S/h included.

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## **Clan Colquhoun Society Of NA**

Membership is invited for all spellings of Colquhoun/ Calhoun, Cowan, MacClintock, MacManus. Applications available online at

2984 Mike Drive  
Marietta, GA 30064

You're invited to visit The Clan Colquhoun "Blogspot" at:

<http://clancolquhoun.blogspot.com/>

