

Vol. X No. 6 *Beth's Newfangled Family Tree* Section A November 2015

# *Pipes of Christmas* Concerts return for 17<sup>th</sup> joyous season in NY & NJ

In what has become a firm holiday favorite, The Pipes of Christmas concert series will celebrate its seventeenth season with performances in New York and New Jersey this December.

The concert presents the music of Christmas accompanied by readings taken from the Celtic literature of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. Featured performers include James Robinson from the film *Braveheart*, New England fiddle champion Paul Woodiel, *Riverdance* uilleann piper and flutist Christopher Layer, Gaelic Mod champion harpist Jennifer Port of Golspie, Scotland, and the Pipe Major Kevin Ray Blandford Memorial Pipe Band from Redlands, CA.

The 2015 season opens on Saturday, December 19 at the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, located at 921 Madison Avenue (at 73<sup>rd</sup> Street) with performances at 2 and 7PM. The concert moves across the Hudson River on Sunday, December 21 to Central Pres-



byterian Church located at 70 Maple Street in Summit, NJ for 2PM and 7PM performances.

For those weary of the ceaseless stream of secular seasonal music from department stores to TV, the Pipes of Christmas offers a spiritual and traditional take on the season that connects concertgoers to the holiday in a fresh, meaningful way. The show features tunes such as *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*, *Joy to the World* and *Amazing Grace*, all performed live on pipes and drums,

harp and fiddle, and organ and brass. Not only does the performance define Christmas cheer, but also it inspires those of Celtic descent to retrace and reconnect to their ancestry.

### **New Musical Works to Have Their Premiere**

As is customary with the Pipes of Christmas, the 2015 concerts will feature a world pre-



River on Sunday, December 21 to Central Pres-

*This Pipes of Christmas article continued on page 5*

**The holiday season begins! Happy! Happy! Happy!**



**Beth Gay-Freeman, LOK, FSA Scot**

*Editor, photographer, etc.*

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## How to solve a "cache" problem with *Beth's Newfangled Family Tree*

Should you ever go to [www.electricscotland.com/bnft](http://www.electricscotland.com/bnft) and the Section 1 or Section 2 is not highlighted you may have a "cache" problem with your ISP or your own computer. We add section 2 first and then a week or so later section 1. So if you are told section 1 is now available and it is not underlined then you do have a cache problem.

Try hitting the "refresh" button in your browser as if the page is cached on your computer or on your ISP then this may reload the page to show the link. In the event this doesn't work then click on the "Archives" link (just below the graphic header) and then scroll down toward the bottom of the page and there it is likely you will find the link to section 1 of the current issue. The archives are in date order with the most recent towards the foot of the page.

However note that the url for section 2 is <http://www.electricscotland.com/bnft/archives/BNFTAUG2015b.pdf> if you simply edit this url so that the final "2015b" becomes a "2015a" then that will likely work as well. Mind that this applies to August 2015 but the same would apply to any other date by simply replacing b with a.

If nothing works, just email [bethscribble@aol.com](mailto:bethscribble@aol.com) and she'll send you a copy of the section via email. Section 1 (A) is up a few days before the first of each month. Section 2 (B) is up about the 15th of the month preceding the issue date.

Hope this helps. Alastair

*A letter from your editor....*

## **Drones vs Drone Competition at GMHG**



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*Guest columnist this month:* **Mona Ramsey**

Visit the Clan Ramsay Website: [www.clanramsay.org](http://www.clanramsay.org)

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### **“Keep the torchlight ceremony solemn and moving.”** Mona Ramsey

Linville, North Carolina, July 9, 2015: Over ten years had passed since I last attended the torchlight ceremony at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. In past years, this event was without a doubt, my favorite.

I remember the mist that settles over the field, a lone piper on the hill, the runner moving effortlessly down the hillside with a lighted torch arriving on the field to then meet the clan representatives.

The single flame flame then lights individual torches whose bearers in turn pass the flickering flame back through the ranks until each clan representative gathered on the field is included in the shape of a Saint Andrews Cross comprised of flickering points of light.

Throughout these events, a narrator tells the story of the clans secretly meeting, cloaked in the darkness of night, their torches illuminating their paths.

It is a very moving ceremony with each clan member offering their personal call to the clans and afterwards they place their torch in a tower located in the center of the field. As each call is given, shouts arise from around the field of from clan members scattered throughout the venue.

The dark night, mountain mist, moving tribal calls made from unseen faces. The flame that began as a

single light, passed through the ranks to become many lights. Following the clan calls, the flames join together as one in unity in the center of the field. A very moving and solemn ceremony.

A solemn ceremony until this year. This year there was one striking difference...this year a drone circled overhead transmitting the images and sounds of the torchlight ceremony to an invisible operator.

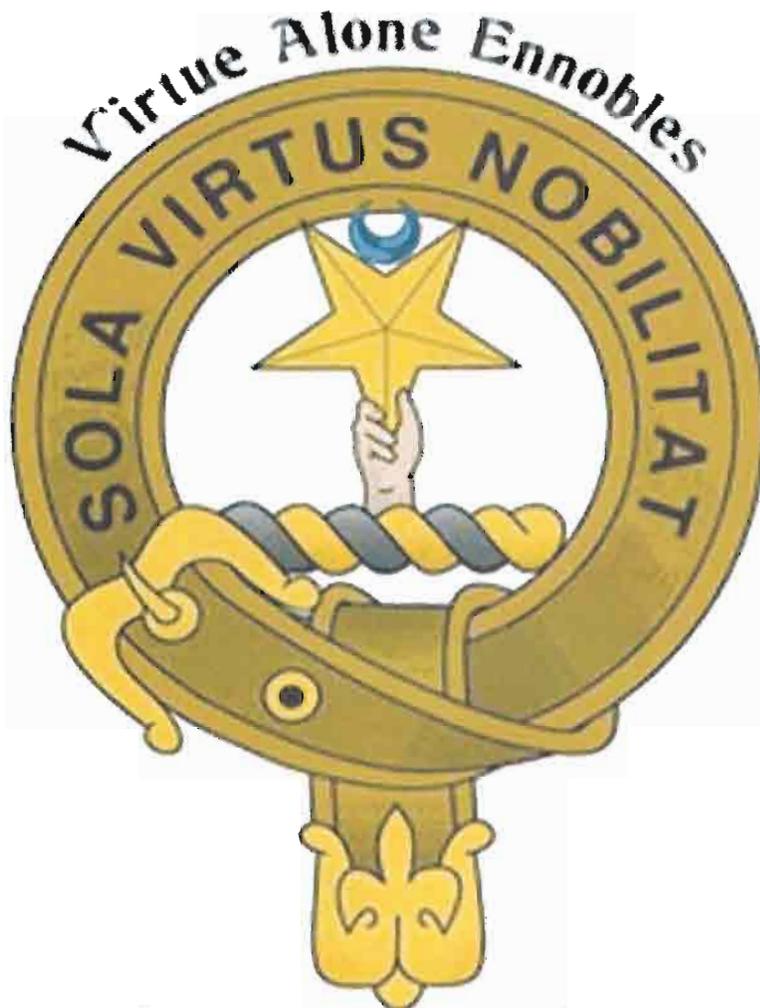
The lone piper on the hill whose drones create the sounds that move the Scottish blood competed with the whirling sound of the drone as it circled overhead documenting the ceremony.

The runner moved down the hillside, followed by the whirling sound of the drone. The light of the torch was also in competition with the blinking red and green lights of the drone.

As the flame was passed through the ranks, the drone whirled overhead in the darkness, circling in the night creating a distraction and taking away from the clan calls.

This new object directed attention away from the events on the field in the same manner that anything new and shiny distracts an individual. It is human nature to look at a new and shiny thing. I am sure the

*Continued on page 17*



## An Airean Ceann Cinnidh

King of the Picts and down through five unique bloodlines evolving from the regions of Caithness, Fordell, Glencoe, Shetlands/Liddesdale and Ulster. Henderson's from the Glencoe region have strong ties to the MacDonald Clan and were renowned as pipers and bodyguards to the Chief (MacIan). Henderson's from the Caithness region have ties to the Clan Gunn.

**MOTTO:** Sola Virtus Nobilitat (Virtue Alone Ennobles)

**WAR CRY:** "The Henderson's Are Here!"

## Clan Henderson

The sons of Henry (MacEanruig) are a family as old as any clan in the Highlands. In modern times, Clan Henderson traces lineage through the Chief of the Name and Arms of Henderson, Alistair of Fordell. However, in times more distant Henderson's can claim descent from a King of the Picts and down through five unique

**Society Contact:** : Mark Henderson (Hendo28@comcast.net)

**Website:** <http://www.clanhendersonsociety.org>

# Veterans Memorial Pipe Band sweeps category at 2015 Ligonier Highland Games



The Veterans Memorial Pipe Band from Meadville, PA, swept their category at The Ligonier Highland Games last Saturday. They were also awarded Best Pennsylvania Pipe Band and are the inaugural Ohio Valley Champions. This band includes two Clan Davidson members.

Thanks to Clan Davidson Facebook!

## The Pipes of Christmas, *continued from page 1*

miere of new a new composition. After successfully debuting in 2013, the concert will feature the premier of a new work featured by a music student of Edinburgh Napier University as part of the annual Alexander McCall Smith Composition Contest. Earlier this year, the concert established a new music scholarship with Edinburgh Napier University for students studying music composition.

### Proceeds Support Scholarships and More

In addition to the new compositions scholarship, proceeds from the concert support an extensive music scholarship program which includes annual gifts to the National Piping Centre and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (both located in Glasgow,) the Gaelic College of Nova Scotia and Lyon College in Batesville, Arkansas. Proceeds also support the US National Scottish Harp Championship, the Gaelic Literature Competition at the Royal National Mod and an annual academic re-

search prize at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Scotland's Gaelic college on the Isle of Skye.

Commenting on the scholarship program, stage and screen star and former Honorary Chairman of the concerts, Alan Cumming said, "I am delighted that proceeds from the Pipes of Christmas will result in

these important gifts which ensure that the future of Scottish culture is safer with these generous scholarships."

Named one of New York City's "Top Ten" holiday events, the concert is made possible by a generous gift from Edinburgh Napier

University, Edinburgh, Scotland and the Grand Summit Hotel in Summit, NJ.

### Tickets Available Now

General admission tickets are on sale now. A downloadable ticket order form can be found on the concert's website at [www.pipesofchristmas.com](http://www.pipesofchristmas.com).

*Continued on page 7*



# 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.

## Harlan D. McCord

President/Chief

4403 Vickery Ave East  
Tacoma, WA 98443-2016

Email:

cmccord1234@msn.com



# Clan Home Society (International)



Cordially invites membership inquiries from all HOME, HUME & Allied Families.

**President Rodney Green**

317 Oak Ridge Drive

Moody, AL 35004

205-368-5286

lawnmower391@gmail.com



Clan Home Society (Int.) Stone Mountain 2015

# The mother of Clan Shaw's 22<sup>nd</sup> Chief



Miss Lilian Elford, Rosehaugh House, circa September 1925. Daughter of Colonel and Ethel Elford, and niece of Lilian Fletcher of Rosehaugh. Lilian became an expert horsewoman and married Captain Charles John Shaw-Mackenzie of the Newhall estate at Rosehaugh in 1933. They were known as Major and Mrs Shaw-Mackenzie of Tordarroch, and Lilian resided in Newhall until her death in 1990. She was the mother of Clan Shaw of Tordarroch's 22<sup>nd</sup> Chief.

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## The Pipes of Christmas, *continued from page 5*

Tickets for the NYC concert may also be purchased online through SmartTix at [www.smarttix.com](http://www.smarttix.com) or by phone at (212) 868-4444. Reserved patron seats are available at both venues.

### **About *The Pipes of Christmas***

Since making its debut in 1999, *The Pipes of Christmas* has played to standing room only audiences. Now a cherished holiday event, the concert provides audiences with a stirring and reverent celebration of the Christmas season and the Celtic spirit.

Audience-goers return year after year to experience the program, many reporting that the Pipes of

Christmas has become part of their family's annual Christmas tradition.

The concert has been lavished with critical acclaim. In his review for *Classical New Jersey Magazine*, Paul Somers wrote, "The whole evening was constructed to introduce gem after gem and still have a finale which raised the roof. In short, it was like a well constructed fireworks show on the Glorious Fourth.

*The Westfield Leader* described the concert as "a unique sound of power and glory nowhere else to be found."

# The Clan Macneil Association of America

If you are a Macneil or any of the following "Sept Names" then you have found the clan you have been searching for.

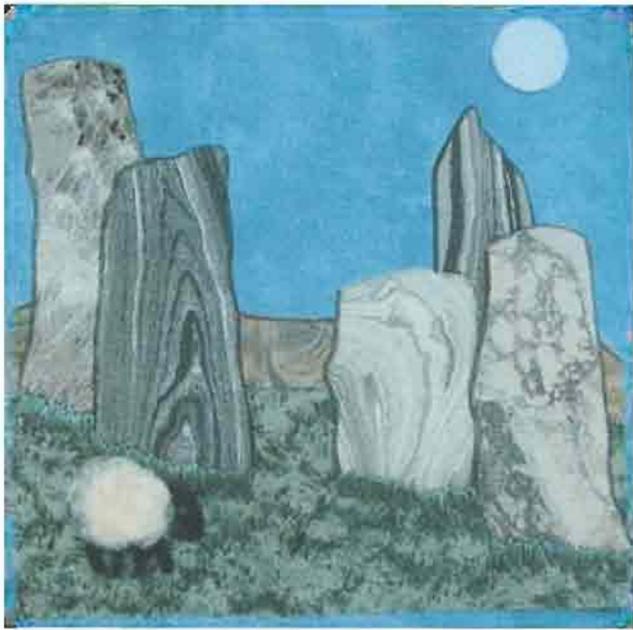


" O'n D'thainig thu."  
Remember the men from whom  
you have come.

The Clan Macneil President: Robert "Bob" Neill,  
183 Pheasant Walk Way - Vilas, NC 28692  
raneill@juno.com

- |              |             |             |            |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| * Macneil    | * Mcniel    | * Niell     | * McGougan |
| * MacNeil    | * McNiel    | * O'Neal    | * McGrail  |
| * Macniel    | * Mcneill   | * O'Neil    | * McGraill |
| * MacNiel    | * McNeill   | * O'Niel    | * Mcgrail  |
| * Macneill   | * Mcneal    | * O'Neill   | * Mcgrail  |
| * MacNeill   | * McNeale   | * Oneil     | * McGugan  |
| * MacNeillie | * McNeilage | * Oneill    | * Macgugan |
| * Macneal    | * Mcneilage | * Nelson    | * McGuigan |
| * MacNeal    | * McNelly   | * Neilson   | ...and     |
| * Macneale   | * Mcnelly   | * Nielson   | * Mcguigan |
| * MacNeilage | * McNeally  | * MacGougan |            |
| * Macneilage | * Mcneally  | * Macgougan |            |
| * MacNelly   | * Neil      | * Macgrail  |            |
| * Macnelly   | * Neal      | * MacGugan  |            |
| * MacNeally  | * Neall     | * Macgugan  |            |
| * Macneally  | * Neale     | * MacGuigan |            |
| * Mcneil     | * Neill     | * Macguigan |            |
| * McNeil     | * Niel      | * McGougan  |            |





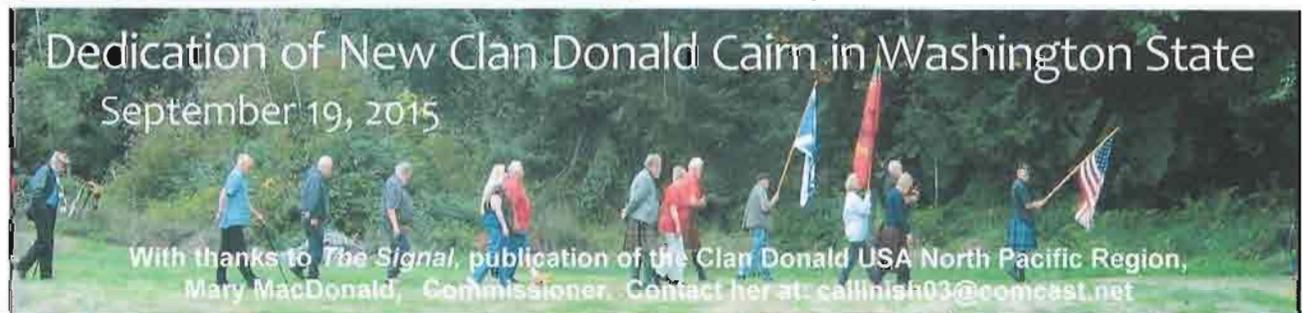
## Believe It Or Not...the gorgeous photo at the left is a Callinish Stones quilt block!

The Callinish Stones quilt block from the North Pacific Region of Clan Donald USA publication, *The Signal*.

The quilt, made for the 2016 Clan Donald USA Annual General Meeting to be held in the North Pacific Region, is at the quilters now and will be auctioned off at the AGM.

The regional members are also crafting a targe and a cedar chest for the auction at the AGM.

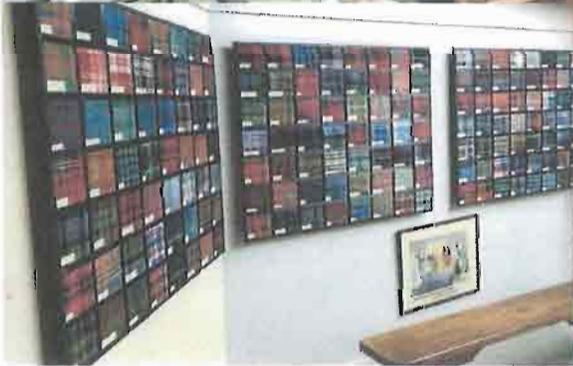
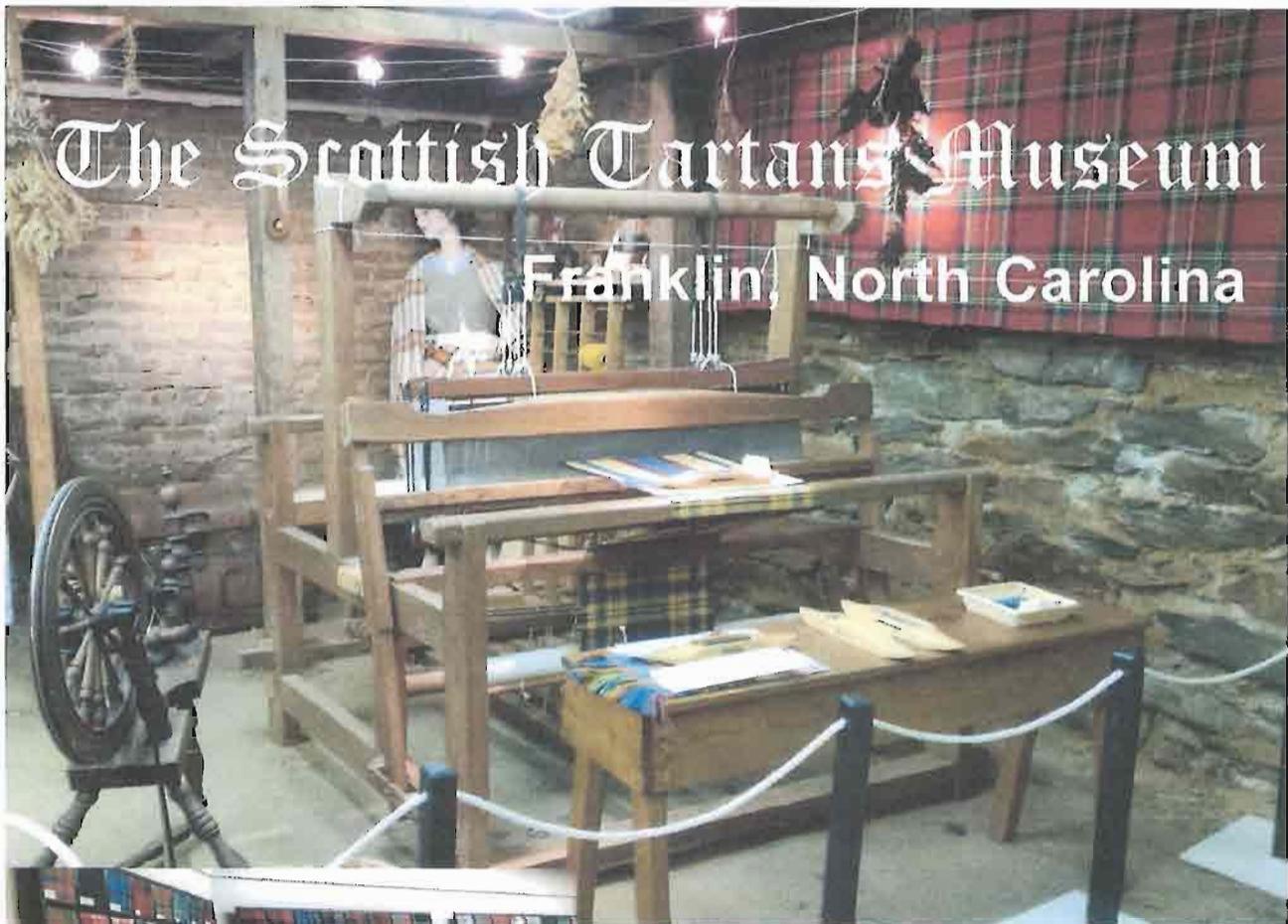
Regional Commissioner for the North Pacific Region is Mary MacDonald. Contact [callinish03@comcast.net](mailto:callinish03@comcast.net)



*Photos Left to Right ~ Regional Piper, Steve McDonald; Regional Commissioner, Mary MacDonald; WA State Commissioner, Ken Paton; and WA Deputy State Commissioner, Bill Hooper. Our new WA State Glencoe Cairn awaits christening. Top ~ Close-up of the Glencoe stone from the River Coe in Scotland. Bottom ~ Plaque for the cairn. Right ~ Ken christening the cairn with some fine whisky!*

**Clans! It's easy to get your news in this publication. It's FREE, too.**  
All you have to do is put [bethscribble@aol.com](mailto:bethscribble@aol.com) on your clan newsletter mailing list.

If you prefer, just send your clan newsletter to:  
Beth Gay-Freeman, 688 Camp Yonah Rd., Clarkesville, GA 30523



The Scottish Tartans Museum & Heritage Center is located in downtown Franklin, North Carolina.

This tartans museum is a non profit organization operated by a Board of Directors and the only tartan museum in the United States.

Our museum is located downstairs which shows the evolution of the kilt and the history of tartan.

Our gift shop, which supports the operation of

our museum, is located upstairs and our volunteers are trained to look up surnames and provide customers with a bit of history and what tartan their family should wear.

We offer our gift shop online and brick and mortar. Here you can order custom made kilts, ladies kilted skirts, sashes, scarves, neckties, fabric by the swatch or by the yard, kilt hose and all quality accessories to accent your highland wear.

Admission is \$2.00 per adult and \$1.00 for Children 6-12.

We are open Monday through Saturday 10-5 pm (Winter hours are 11 AM until 4 PM) It is always a good idea to call first if you are planning a trip to our quaint wee mountain town because we might have snow and ice.

Visit our website and learn some history as well

[www.scottishtartans.org](http://www.scottishtartans.org)

Telephone 828-524-7472 or email us [tartans@scottishtartans.org](mailto:tartans@scottishtartans.org)

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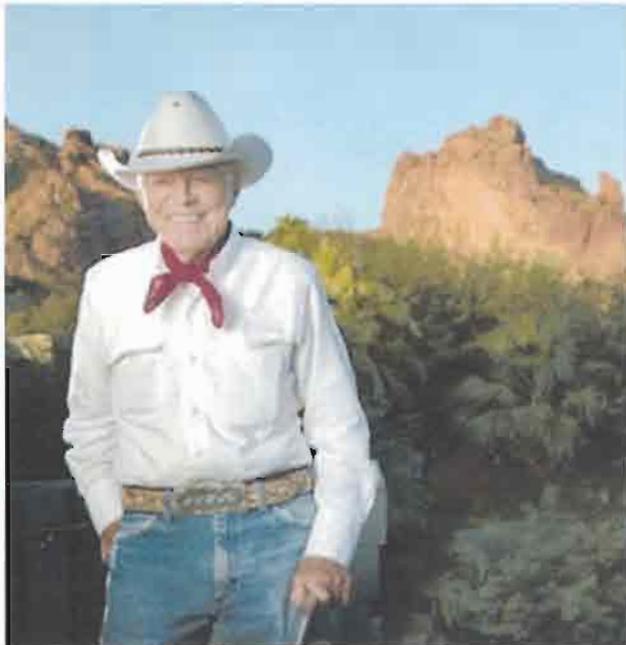
# Flowers of the Forest



**Bill O'Brien (William H.)** born: February 25, 1923 and died September 22, 2015, age 92 ½.

The Irish Cultural Center in Phoenix, Arizona and many other friends mourn the death of Irish Cowboy, Bill O'Brien, who died peacefully at home in Paradise Valley, Arizona, at the foot of his beloved Camelback Mountain, listening to family and friends regale him with his own stories and adventures they shared together.

If you're wondering, yes, as he always wanted... Bill O'Brien died with his cowboy boots on.



*Photo by Michael Woodall, [www.michaelwoodall.com](http://www.michaelwoodall.com)*

Bill was an Arizona Irish Cowboy, Storyteller, Entrepreneur, Naturalist, Poet, Philanthropist, Rancher, Farmer, Pilot, Sailor, Falconer, Polo Player, Boxer, Wool Merchant, Archer, Jockey, Dog Breeder, Globetrotter, Practical Joker, Alligator Roper, Bronc Rider, and his greatest source of Irish pride, co-founder with his friends of the non-profit Irish Cultural Center, which now includes the magnificent McClelland Library.

A celebration of Bill O'Brien's life will be held November 1, 2015 10:30 am to 1 pm at the Irish

Cultural Center located at the Roosevelt Light Rail station on Central Avenue in downtown Phoenix. More information from [www.azirish.org](http://www.azirish.org) The Roosevelt Light Rail Station is located at: 1106 North Central Avenue Phoenix Arizona 85004; Call 602-258-0109.

In lieu of flowers, the O'Brien Family gratefully thanks you for your heartfelt donation to The Irish Cultural and Learning Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not for profit corporation, c/o, the Irish Cultural Center, 1106 North Central Avenue, Phoenix Arizona 85004 (Office: 602-258-0109), [www.azirish.org](http://www.azirish.org), direct link to <https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/511698>

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**Noma E. (nee Steik-Neilson) Winchester** passed away July 4, 2015 in Bellingham, WA. Noma was born April 26, 1947, in Wrangell, Alaska and later moved to Washington where she met her lifetime love, Glen Winchester. They were married February 12, 1966 and eventually settled in Ferndale, WA.

Noma, a long-time family member and friend of the North Pacific Region of Clan Donald USA, she ran and organized the Bellingham Scottish Highland Games for the past two decades, making it one of the best events in the Pacific Northwest!

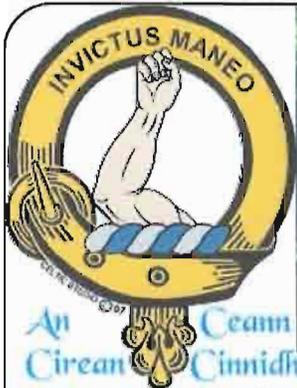
Noma is survived by her husband Glen and her children, Jeremiah, Jered (Stacy), and Joshua. Her warmth, generosity, and her wonderful smile will be sorely missed by us all.

Donations are being accepted in Noma's memory to continue her legacy of giving to children, community and culture. Send to Noma Winchester Memorial Fund c/o BHGA, P.O. Box 1477, Bellingham, WA 98227.

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**John Ramsay** - known affectionately as "JR" by everyone - was the outstanding sculptor in residence at Edinburgh's Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, where he created numerous attractions as well

*Continued on page 13*



# The Armstrong Clan Society

Dedicated to the Armstrongs, Crosiers, Fairbairns, Grosiers, Nixons and those interested in these surnames.

The Armstrong Clan Society was organized on October 8, 1981 and is incorporated in the State of Georgia, USA. The Society is recognized as a Section 501 (c) (3) not for profit organization and exempt from United States Federal Income Taxes. On September 24, 1984, the Lord Lyon, King of Arms in Scotland, granted warrant to the Lyon Clerk to matriculate in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland in the name of the Armstrong Clan Society, Inc., the Coat of Arms in the upper left corner of this page. Our motto "Semper Invictus" can be translated as "Always Unconquered."

## Objectives of the Armstrong Clan Society

1. To seek friendship and unity among all Armstrongs, its septs and associated families.
2. To provide for the preservation of all Armstrong artifacts unique to the family.
3. To serve as a genealogical and historical resource for the membership and the general public.
4. To provide news, Armstrong history, items of general interest and genealogy via our newsletter, *The Armstrong Chronicles*.
5. To establish worldwide geographic membership representation.

## Membership

All Armstrongs, Croziers, Fairbairns, Grosiers and Nixons (regardless of the spelling and their descendants, are eligible for full membership in The Armstrong Clan Society. In the United States and Canada, dues are \$25 per year or \$45 for two years. All memberships are family memberships which includes two adults and all minor children. In all other countries, dues are \$35 per year. All dues are payable in US funds.

For a membership application, email Peter Armstrong at [peter.armstrong1.3@gmail.com](mailto:peter.armstrong1.3@gmail.com) or download from <http://www.armstrong.org/membership.htm>. Note: "spouse" on the application includes: spouse, domestic partner or any other adult living at the same address.

## Flowers of the Forest, *continued from page 11*

as beautifully crafted sculptures. Ramsay's work was also seen at locations throughout Scotland - notably Edinburgh Airport and a swivel-locking system to prevent the macaques escaping at the Highlands Wildlife Centre at Kingussie, where he was the society's resident blacksmith.

It was Ramsay's work at the Edinburgh Zoo for which he, justifiably, gained a special renown. His work there over thirty years was much admired for his ability to capture the very essence of an animal - depicting its power, elegance and agility in movement.

He also created special one-off pieces for speakers participating in the Zoo's Tribal Elder Series, including an African rhino for anthropologist Dame Jane Goodall, a Sumatran Aubrey Manning and a pair of stags for former Royal Zoological Society of Scotland director Roger Wheeler.

Chris West, chief executive of the Royal Zoological Society told The Scotsman newspaper, "During his time here, JR created everything from intricately decorated wrought iron gates to fencing surrounding our Physic Garden enclosure locking system and metalwork on animal enclosures. His legacy certainly lives on here at the zoo and his one-off sculptures of birds, animals and insects dotted distinctly around the site bring pleasure to visitors every day."

Ramsay was born on the Royal Mile - his mother grew up in Canongate and his father in Haddington, East Lothian.

JR Ramsay attended St. Andrew's School, Lochend, in the capitol and was fascinated by metal work from an early age. He left school at 15 and was apprenticed to a farrier in Edinburgh - Old Tan, a one-legged veteran from the First World War, who taught Ramsay the intricate skills of metal work.

His first professional positions were to design and

oversee the installation of the large stainless steel and glass hanging stairs at the Royal Bank of Scotland's Dundas Street branch.

He took up the post with the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland and became an inspired member of the team at Edinburgh's famous zoo. He brought his love of art work and his ability to fashion metalwork to many aspects of the zoo.

Ramsay delighted in telling the story about when he was making a fence and added, as an afterthought, some metal leaves. "There was a mistake and a hole appeared in a leaf. I said it had been eaten by caterpillars. That is now a feature, along with a spider's web."

His work and imaginative solutions to numerous problems are to be found all around the zoo.

"You have to be careful," Ramsay once commented as he worked some metal with his blow-torch blazing. "Monkeys lift everything and the tiger cage took weeks to make and had to be very strong. I love the tortoise I made out of scrap metal. Everyone, as they pass that tortoise, reaches out and touches him."

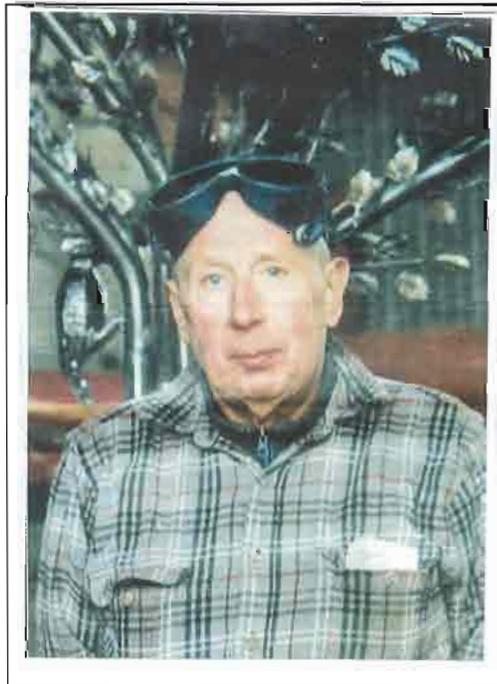
Ramsay had ingenious solutions for everything - an enhanced enclosure so that the flamingoes could protect their young and wonderfully decorated gates for the member's

rooms. Everything was done with an artistic understanding of what was required and a genuine love.

Ramsay was once asked what it was like to work in the chimp tunnel with agitated primates banging excitedly at both ends? Calmly, he replied, "Scary. I have a whole new respect for the primate keeper."

Ramsay made an incisive study of all the animals he created - examining them in the zoo and looking extensively at pictures.

With an expert eye, he captured the animal's



*Continued on page 15*



# CLAN BUCHANAN SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL, INC.

If you have the name "Buchanan" in your family or any of the allied family/sept names below, you are invited to join your cousins and Buchanan kin. Just send an email for a membership form and/or information to

<http://www.theclanbuchanan.com/html/contact.html>



- |            |               |                      |
|------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Bohanan    | Gilbert       | Macgilbert           |
| Buchanan   | Gilbertson    | Macgreusich          |
| Colman     | Harper        | Macgubbin            |
| Cormack    | Harperson     | Macinally            |
| Cousland   | Leavy         | Macindeo(r)          |
| Dewar      | Lennie        | Mackibb              |
| Donleavy   | Lenny         | Mackibbon            |
| Dove, Dow  | Macaldonich   | Mackinlay            |
| Gibb(s)(y) | Macalman      | Mackinley            |
| Gibbon     | Macandeior    | Macmaster            |
| Gibson     | Macaslan      | Macmaurice           |
|            | Macaslin      | Macmorris            |
|            | Macauselan    | Macmurchie           |
|            | Macauslan(in) | Macmurphy            |
|            | Macausland    | Macneur              |
|            | Macauslane    | Macnuir              |
|            | Macalman      | Macquat              |
|            | Macalmon(t)   | Macquattie           |
|            | Macammond     | Macquattiey          |
|            | Macasland     | Macquyer             |
|            | Macchruiter   | MacQuinten           |
|            | Maccolman     | Macwattie            |
|            | Maccolwan     | Macwhirter           |
|            | Maccormac(k)  | Macwhorter           |
|            | Maccommon     | Masters              |
|            | Maccoubrey    | Masterson            |
|            | Maccubbin     | Morrice              |
|            | Maccubbing    | Morris               |
|            | Maccubin      | Morrison             |
|            | Macdonleavy   | (of Perthshire only) |
|            | Macgeorge     | Murchie              |
|            | Macgibbon     | Murchison            |
|            |               | Richardson           |



- Risk
- Rusk(ie)
- Ruskin
- Spittal
- Spittle
- Walter
- Walters
- Wason
- Sasson
- Waters
- Watson
- Watt
- Watters
- Weir
- Wuill
- Wool
- Wuile

The CBSI was formed in 1970 as the Clan Buchanan Society in America. It was founded at the Grandfather Mountain Games in North Carolina. The name was later changed to the Clan Buchanan Society International Inc., to reflect our society's expanded purpose and membership.



You're welcome to email the president  
Eric Bullard, [goatherd@gmail.com](mailto:goatherd@gmail.com)

## Having trouble with your Ramsay family tree?

A search feature is now available on the Clan Ramsay genealogy data page. You can search by name, birth year, death year, place, spouse name, father's name or mother's name. Just click on the new search button on the Clan Ramsay genealogy data page and give it a try!

Go to [www.clanramsay.org](http://www.clanramsay.org). If you have any suggestions or problems with the website, contact the Webmaster, Alice Ramsay at [clanramswb@gmail.com](mailto:clanramswb@gmail.com)

**Flowers of the Forest**, *continued from page 13*



movements and mannerisms, thus ensuring each of his animal sculptures is person and unique.

One design gave JR a particular pleasure. It took him three weeks to weld 792 individual leaves imported from Italy onto the Wishing Tree in the zoo. Along with six birds and a butterfly, it is a popular site for visitors - many of whom leave messages.

As Ramsay said, "All of us have dreams and aspirations that we hope will one day come true."

Ramsay was devoted to his work at the zoo and his family. His widow, Josephine, recalls, "He loved making things - wee things that became big things. He

was skilled and so patient when working."

"He loved animals and we often walked our three dogs along the Water of Leith."

JR, who only retired a few weeks ago after a diagnosis of cancer, is survived by Josephine and their two sons.

---

This was written by Alasdair Steven in *The Scotsman* newspaper in Edinburgh.

With thanks to the newsletter of the Clan Ramsay Association of North America. Visit the Clan Ramsay website: [www.clanramsay.org](http://www.clanramsay.org)

# Clan Davidson Society USA



Davidson Clansmen dominate the Parade of Tartans at the International Gathering of Clan Davidson sponsored by the Clan Davidson Society USA. The event was held June, 2011, in conjunction with the Kansas City Highland Games.

Is your name listed here? If so, then you may be interested in membership in the **Clan Davidson Society USA!**

<b>Davey</b>	<b>Davisson</b>	<b>Dea</b>	<b>Dee</b>	<b>Dhai</b>	<b>Keay</b>	<b>MacDade</b>	<b>MacDavid</b>
<b>Davie</b>	<b>Davy</b>	<b>Dean</b>	<b>Desson</b>	<b>Dow</b>	<b>Keys</b>	<b>MacDagnie</b>	<b>MacDavitt</b>
<b>Davidson</b>	<b>Daw</b>	<b>Deane</b>	<b>Devette</b>	<b>Dye</b>	<b>Key</b>	<b>MacDagny</b>	<b>MacDhai</b>
<b>Davis</b>	<b>Dawson</b>	<b>Deas</b>	<b>Dewis</b>	<b>Dyson</b>	<b>Keys</b>	<b>MacDaid</b>	<b>MacKay</b>
<b>Davison</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Deason</b>	<b>Dey</b>	<b>Kay</b>	<b>MacAdie</b>	<b>MacDavett</b>	<b>McKeddie</b>

**The Clan Davidson Society USA** is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit corporation recognized by the **US IRS** as a 501 c(3) Educational and Charitable organization. We are dedicated to the preservation of our rich Scottish and Clan Heritage. CDA-USA publishes an award-winning, electronic, full color newsmagazine of 40-60 pages twice a year, packed with informative articles and photos of interest both to Davidson Clansmen as well as anyone interested in the history and culture of Scotland.

The Society's On-Staff Genealogist is the Founder of the Davidson/Davison DNA Project and is available at no charge to assist the membership with their own genealogical excavations.

For more information, check out our website at [[www.elandavidsonusa.com](http://www.elandavidsonusa.com)] or contact the Society's Membership Registrar at [[sennachie@earthlink.net](mailto:sennachie@earthlink.net)].



**Guest columnist, continued from page 3**  
images made for great YouTube videos, but took away from the heritage of the occasion.

The whirling, blinking darting drone is just a glimpse at the games of the future. I am sure the images captured will be used to promote the games on the GMHG website or blog.

This is the 21<sup>st</sup> century and organizations must adapt to methods that the public responds to. I see this method being effective during the nosier competitive events which are held throughout the weekend.

But, I feel the torchlight ceremony should be a hallowed event....set apart from the competition.

The drones of the lone piper should not be required to compete with a whirling drone.

Our attention to the moving calls of the clans should not be distracted by the flashing lights of this shiny object that heralds in a new future for the beloved games.



*The Clan Davidson's FaceBook is always filled with interesting and wonderful things....including this adorable unidentified youngster in his very best Scottish attire.*



*John Mutrie, John Weir and Scott McCormack of the 145th Boys Brigade Pipe Band at Glasgow, Scotland. They are proudly wearing the Ramsay Blue Tartan!*

## **The Earl of Seafield's private railway terminal**

Back in their day, private railway cars were the Victorian equivalent of the corporate Lear Jet.

Luxuriously appointed passenger cars in which the wealthy could travel in style and comfort.

John Charles Grant Ogilvie, the 7th Earl of Seafield, went one better and in 1863 built his own private railway terminal convenient to his Castle Grant in Morayshire, Scotland.

No mere sidetrack and platform, the terminal was built of gray stone with turrets and a drum tower to compliment the nearby castle.

*Continued on page 25*



# OH, CANADA!



[www.electriccanadian.com](http://www.electriccanadian.com)

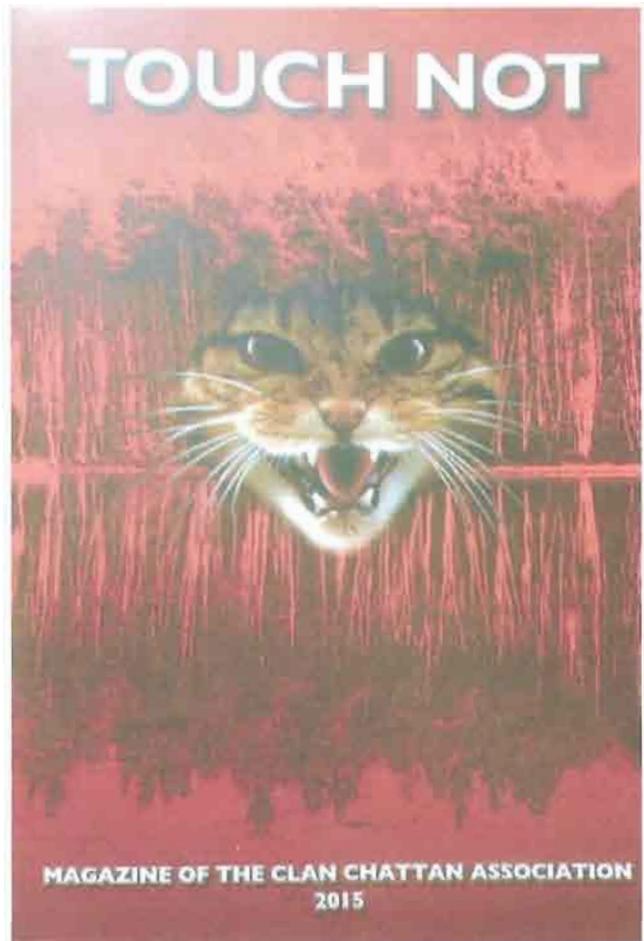




Following last May's general election, an astonishing fifty-six Scottish National Party members of Parliament arrived at Westminster, up from just six in the last election, and from zero within living memory.

Departing from House of Commons tradition, the new Scottish MPs **took the requisite oath to the Queen by raising their right hands, which Americans may be surprised to learn is considered in England to be a distinctive "oath in the Scots form."**

Several of those fifty-six repeated the oath in Gaelic and one or two others did it in broad Scots for guid measure!



The Clan Chattan is a confederation of Clans including the principal Clans of Mackintosh, MacGillivray, MacBean, Shaw, MacThomas, Macleans of Dochgarroch, Macpherson, Farquharson, Davidson, MacPhail, MacQueens of Strathdearn and MacIntyres in Badenoch.

In 2012 the Association launched an exciting new magazine called *Touch Not*. This replaces the annual newsletter.

*Touch Not* updates members on what is going on in the Association, gives news on members and associated clan associations.

Contact Clan Chattan Association, PO Box 13817, Penicuik, EH26 9YR Scotland. E-mail: [clanchattanassociation@btinternet.com](mailto:clanchattanassociation@btinternet.com) or visit [www.clanchattan.org.uk](http://www.clanchattan.org.uk)

Magazine items or how to obtain copies of *Touch Not* should be sent to [clanchattanassociation@btinternet.com](mailto:clanchattanassociation@btinternet.com).

We encourage everyone who is interested in the great Clan Ramsay to join the Clan Ramsay Association of N.A.

Contact David Ramsey: <davidf.ramsey@verizon.net>



### Become a part of Clan Ramsay's DNA Project!

**What is it?** DNA testing is a new and exciting tool for genealogists. It enables people to get an idea of how closely they are related to those of the same last name. The Ramsey/Ramsay DNA Project focuses on testing males of the last name **Ramsay or Ramsay**. The results are compiled together with the results from other Ramsey/Ramsay males and we get an idea of who is related to whom and ultimately, we can link different lines together. But, to do that, the project needs lots of people to participate.

### The Clan Ramsay Genealogy Project

The Clan Ramsay Genealogy Project's mission is to foster the spirit of kinship and pride existing among all who have Ramsay ancestry, regardless of the spelling. Clan family names include: Ramsay, Ramsey, Dalhousie, Ramsay of Bamff, Ramsay of Balmain, Maule, Brecheen and Brechin. The clan genealogy database was established in 1997 to provide a clearinghouse for Ramsay family data and history.

The Clan Ramsay genealogy database was created using The Master Genealogist, Wholly Genes, Inc., 5144 Flowertuft Court, Columbia, MD 21044. Call 410-715-2260. <http://www.whollygenes.com>

### Sister Associations of Clan Ramsay in Australia, Nova Scotia and Finland!

**Quarterly Newsletter - The Ramsay Report is available to all members!**

### Clan Ramsay represented at Scottish Games and events all over the country

Clan Ramsay is represented all of the United States at Scottish Games, Gatherings and events. See us at the Loch Norman Highland Games in NC; Iron Thistle Scottish Heritage Festival and Highland Games in OK; Smoky Mountain Highland Games in TN; Gallabrac/Greenville, SC Games; Glasgow Highland Games, KY; Scottish Christmas Walk

of the Clans, VA; Chicago Highland Games, IL; Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, NC; Colorado Scottish Festival & Rocky Mountain Highland Games, CO; Wichita Highland Games & Celtic Festival, KS; The Caledonian Club of San Francisco's Annual Scottish Gathering and Games, CA; Columbia Scottish Festival, IN; Halifax Celtic Festival, Halifax, NS, Canada; Oklahoma's Premier Celtic Music Festival & Scottish Highland Games, OK; Charleston Scottish Games and Highland Gathering, SC; Ligonier Highland Games, PA; McPherson Scottish Festival, KS; Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games and Festival, IN; Stone Mountain Highland Games, GA; Salado Scottish Clan Gathering & Scottish Games, TX;

### Clan Ramsay needs YOU!

There are openings available in the state/region commissioners roster where you would be most welcome. Contact David Ramsey at

[davidf.ramsey@verizon.net](mailto:davidf.ramsey@verizon.net)

for full information and details about the Clan Ramsay Association of North America.



# Have you ever tasted Arbroath Smokies?

**Linda Frazier, current President , Tallahassee (FL) St. Andrew Society**

With thanks to the *St. Andrew Cross*, their publication. [www.saintandrewtallahassee.org](http://www.saintandrewtallahassee.org).

Most of us have heard of Arbroath, famous for the *Declaration of Arbroath* signed at Arbroath Abbey in 1320 confirming to Pope John XXII Scotland's status as a sovereign state; but to others, this small Angus town also is known for a singular food—the *Arbroath Smokie*.

What is an Arbroath Smokie?

It is preserved haddock which has been lightly salted and cooked by gentle smoking over hot oak chips. The smoking process imparts a special flavor leaving the fish with creamy flesh under a copery surface created by the smoking process.

This Scottish delicacy with a worldwide reputation is produced by about 15 small family smokehouses located within five miles of the fishing town of Arbroath, from the community of West Mains to the north of Arbroath to the community of East Haven to its south.

Since 2004, Arbroath Smokies has been one of 11 Scottish products enjoying protected status holding a PGI (Protected Geographical Indication) and PDO (Protected Designation of Origin) grading (there are a total of 65 in the UK).

This recognition identifies high-quality products unique to a particular region produced using a particular—usually traditional—method.

This designation assures consumers the product is genuine. Other Scottish products with this protected status include Scotch Whisky, Stornoway Black Pudding as well as Scotch Lamb, Scotch Beef, Orkney Lamb, Orkney Beef, Shetland Lamb, Scottish Wild

Salmon and Scottish Farmed Salmon and Orkney Scottish Island Cheddar.

To produce an Arbroath Smokie, locally caught haddock are split, leaving their backbone intact. These halves are salted, then left over night. The next day the halves are paired by tying them together by their tails using locally produced hemp twine and left again over night to dry.

The next day the pairs are hung over a triangular

length of wood called a “kiln stick”. They are then subjected to the smoking process which takes less than an hour. The loaded stick is hung over a barrel in which an oak chip fire is burning. A lid is placed on the top of the barrel which is then sealed around the edges with wet jute sacks soaked in water to prevent them from catching fire. In-



side the barrel, the fish cook over a very hot, humid and smoky fire with enough intense heat and thick smoke to cook the fish without burn-ing while imparting the strong, smoky taste and smell people expect from Arbroath Smokies.

There are several local legends about the origin of Arbroath Smokies.

One legend says a store (in another legend, it was a cottage) containing barrels of haddock preserved in salt caught fire one night and was destroyed.

The next morning upon inspection the burnt barrels were discovered amid the ruins with the haddock inside, cooked and still edible. Another story goes that local fishwives, smoking the fish on sticks, originally

*Continued on page 23*



# FLYING HERALDRY



Thomas Freeman  
[tom@caberdancer.com](mailto:tom@caberdancer.com)  
706-839-6612

## Arbroath Smokies, *continued from page 21*

put them onto halved whisky barrels with fires underneath, trapping the smoke under layers of coarse sackcloth from the jute mills in the local area.

Despite the colorful stories of its origins, in all probability, this process for preserving fish came to Scotland from the Viking raiders of the early 11<sup>th</sup> century.

Vikings frequented the Angus coast during that time and left colonies of fishers along the coast who would have preserved their catch from the local waters for later use.

Although called an *Arbroath* Smokie, in fact, this delicacy did not really originate in Arbroath but was brought to Arbroath from Auchmithie, an even smaller fishing village three miles northeast of Arbroath.

Local historians say that toward the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Arbroath's fishing industry had died out and Arbroath's Town Council offered the fishers from Auchmithie use of Arbroath's modern harbor as well as land in an area of Arbroath known as the *fit o' the toon*.

The offer was accepted and much of Auchmithie's population relocated, bringing with them their process for smoking fish. Today, one can find Arbroath

Smokies worldwide, sold in major UK supermarkets and online.

Smoked fish is a staple of many Scottish dishes, such as Cullen Skink, Kedgeree and Finnan Haddock.

This recipe for **Arbroath Smokie Pâté** was created by Chef Kevin Graham of Arbroath's Meadowbank Inn.

### Ingredients:

One pair of Arbroath Smokies (boned and skinned)  
*Note: You can order Smokies online or substitute other smoked fish—until you can go to Scotland and get real Smokies.*

- 8oz cream cheese
- Pinch of cayenne pepper
- ¼ pint of double cream (heavy whipping cream)
- ½ squeezed lemon
- Salt and pepper, if necessary

Mash up the Smokies with the lemon juice and cayenne in a bowl. Add the cream cheese and mix with a wooden spoon until smooth. Add the cream and mix. Spoon into small ramekins and chill then serve with hot toast fingers. You can store in the refrigerator for up to 2 weeks or freeze.



## That's gold in them thar' Scottish hills!

Scotland's complex geology has long been a source of mineral wealth, but still nothing sets the heart aflutter like this spring's discovery of a 20-carat nugget of pure placer gold.

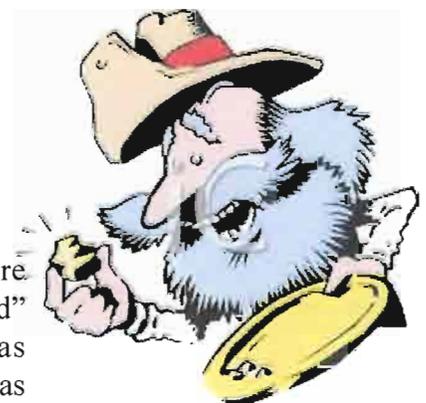
The nugget, worth about ten thousands pounds was found not by a grizzled prospector, but by a Canadian tourist panning in a river near Wanlockhead, near Dumfries.

His find came about in the course of an experience-history class panning for flakes in a stream long thought to be played out.

This area of the Lowther Hills was once known

as "God's treasure house of Scotland" where gold was mined as far back as the 1500s.

Before you air freight your mule, pan and pickaxe to join the stream of "15-ers," understand that the area has yielded little over the last century, and that the exact location of the lucky strike is being kept a secret lest latter-day Argonauts descend and tear up the delicate streambed.





# Clan Leslie Society International

**Septs:** Abernethy, Bartholomew,  
Carnie, Laing, and More (Moore)  
and other spelling variations

David Leslie White,  
Chieftain



Send Inquiries To:

**Linda Flowers, Treasurer**

Clan Leslie Society International

30302 SW 3rd St.

Tuttle, OK 73089

[LFLOWJINGO@SBCGLOBAL.NET](mailto:LFLOWJINGO@SBCGLOBAL.NET)

[www.clanlesliesociety.org](http://www.clanlesliesociety.org)

**The Hon. Alexander Leslie,  
Chief of Clan Leslie**



Manx & Cornish  
Flowers of the Forest,  
John Karran  
& Ian Wilson



Manx historian **John Karran Qualtrough** passed away this June at the age of 75.

The co-author of *Industrial Archaeology of the Isle of Man* and numerous booklets, Qualtrough taught Manx history at the Isle of Man College and was also a dedicated preservationist of his home village of Cregneish. (As he insisted was the historical correct spelling.)

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Eron the Wizard, born **Ian Wilson** and otherwise known as the “White Wizard of Tintagel,” died of cancer last May at the age of 63.

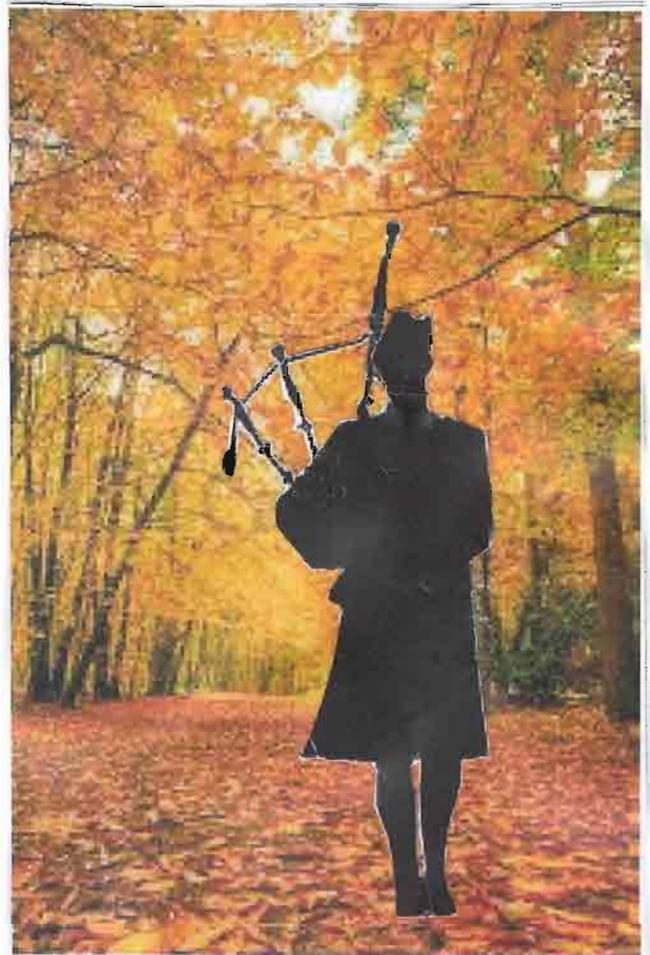
A well-known Cornish character, Eron embraced the Wiccan religion after moving to Cornwall from Gloucester, England, and traveled the country promoting the religion dressed in wizard garb in a red car decorated with Wiccan symbols.

In recent years, he counseled fellow cancer sufferers.

Hundreds of people attended his funeral, a traditional ceremony conducted by a Wiccan high priestess.

---

With thanks to the Celtic League American Branch publication, *Six Nations - One Soul*. Write PO Box 20153, Dag Hammarskjold Center, NY, NY 10017.



*With wishes for a  
wonderful Thanksgiving -  
filled with laughter,  
joy and love.  
Tom, Beth & Alastair*

---

**John Charles Grant Ogilvie**, *continued from page 17*

Passengers disembarked through an ashlar granite archway emblazoned with the earl’s coat of arms.

Long known as Lady Catherine’s Hall, the building is no longer connected with the railway, but it does boast terrific views, being located in the midst of Cairngorms National Park.

Recently refurbished and put up for sale as a private residence, it has reportedly been purchased for one million pounds.

If you are a Graham or Sept of Graham, you are cordially invited to share in a proud and noble heritage. Join the Clan Graham Society today.

# Clan Graham Society



U.S. MEMBERSHIP VICE PRESIDENT  
Clifford Fitzsimmons  
2919 Denson Avenue  
Knoxville, TN 37921-6671  
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For more information,  
scan the QR code or  
visit our website at  
[www.clangrahamsociety.org](http://www.clangrahamsociety.org).



**HIS GRACE, JAMES GRAHAM**  
**8TH DUKE OF MONTROSE**  
**CHIEF OF THE CLAN GRAHAM**

## *Septs of Graham*

Airth, Alirdes, Allardes, Allardice, Allardyce,  
Allerdyce, Alyrdes, Ardes, Auchinloick,  
Ballewen, Blair, Bonar, Bonnar, Bonner,  
Bontein, Bontine, Bontyne, Bountene,  
Buchlyrie, Buchlyry, Bullman, Buntain,  
Bunten, Buntin, Buntine, Bunting, Buntin,  
Buntin, Buntyn, Buntyn, Buting, Conyers,  
Crampshee, Cramsy, Cransie, Drumaguassie,  
Drumagaassy, Drumaguassie, Duchray,  
Duchwray, Dugalston, Durchray, Esbank,  
Fintraie, Fintray, Fintrie, Glennie, Glenly,  
Grame, Graeme, Grahame, Grahym, Grim,  
Grime, Grimes, Grimm, Hadden, Haddon,  
Haddin, Haldane, Halden, Hastie, Haldine,  
Hasty, Hastiy, Howden, Howe, Howie,  
Kilpatrick, Lingo, MacCribon, MacGibbon,  
MacGilvern, MacGilvernock, MacGilvernoel,  
MacGribon, MacGrime, MacGrimen,  
MacIlvern, MacIlvernock, MacKibben,  
MacKibbin, MacKibbins, MacPiot, MacPiott,  
MacPotts, MacRibon, MacRigh, MacRis,  
MacRiss, MacShile, MacShille, MacShillie,  
Maharg, Menteith, Monteith, Monzie,  
Orchille, Pitcarian, Piatt, Pyatt, Pye, Pyott,  
Reddoch, Reddock, Rednock, Riddick,  
Riddoch, Riddock, Serjeant, Sirowan,  
Sterling, Strowan, Strowen



## Book Sales at Lectures - a new service for Fellows

The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland is pleased to announce a new service for Fellows attending our monthly lectures in Edinburgh: you can now order any of our publications online, via email or over the phone in advance of the lectures and we will have your books available to be picked up at the next lecture. No need to pay for postage!

How it works:

Ordering online: you can place your order as normal on our website ([www.socantscot.org/shop](http://www.socantscot.org/shop)) and choose "Pickup at the next Society lecture (Free)"

when checking out

Ordering by phone: call Vasiliki Koutrafoura (0131 247 4214) or email her ([vasiliki@socantscot.org](mailto:vasiliki@socantscot.org)) with your order details and credit card information

Books must be ordered and paid for by 5pm on the last **working** day before the lecture. So for a Monday lecture, books should be ordered and paid for by Friday evening. But if you are paying online we can accept payment up until the Sunday evening!

Society staff will bring your books to the NMS lecture theatre 15 minutes before the lecture (please make sure you arrive early to pick up your books)

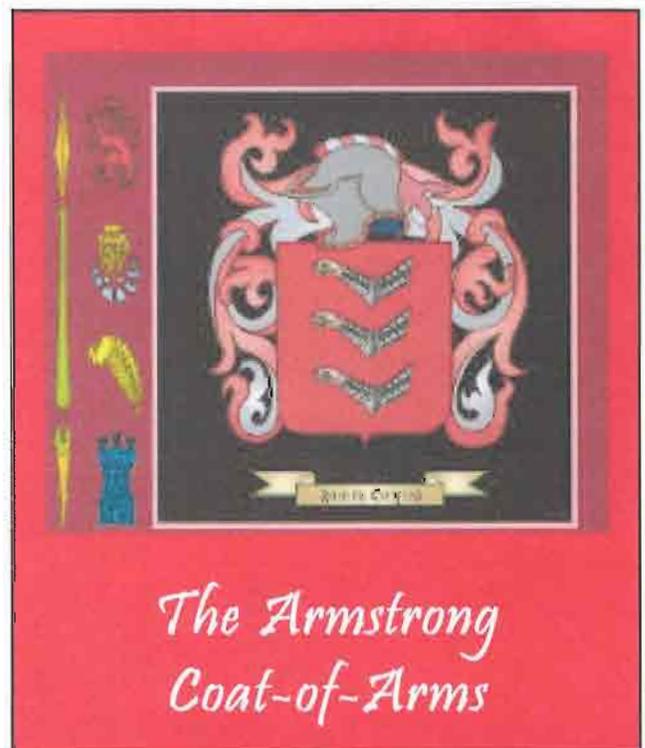
## Armstrong Gathering/2016 AGM planned for Scotland

The next Armstrong Gathering information has recently been announced.

It will be held in Langholm, Dumfriesshire, Scotland over the weekend of Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> to Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> of August 2016. Beginning at 7:30 pm on August 5 and ending on August 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm.

Location is the Eskdale Hotel, Langholm, Dumfries and Galloway DG13-0JH UK. (More information published as it becomes available.) Contact [billjohn@hotmail.com](mailto:billjohn@hotmail.com) for information on joining Clan Armstrong or for more on the 2016 Armstrong AGM.

With thanks to *The Armstrong Chronicles*, the publication of the Clan Armstrong.



# MacDuffee Clan Society of America, Inc.

of Clan Macfie

*Ceud Mile Failte! 100,000 Welcomes!*

CLAN  
MACDUFFEE



Annual General Meeting held each year in July  
at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.  
You are always welcome to attend.

**President: Thomas P. McDuffee**

[tpmijm@aol.com](mailto:tpmijm@aol.com)

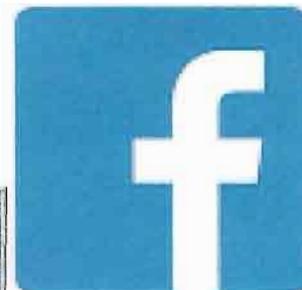
**Treasurer: David M. McDuffie**

[dnmcduffie@gmail.com](mailto:dnmcduffie@gmail.com)

**Genealogist: Richard Ledyard**

865-671-2555

[rledyard@tds.net](mailto:rledyard@tds.net)



MacDuffee  
Clan Society  
of America





# Buchanan Flowers of the Forest

*The Buchanan Banner*, publication of the Clan Buchanan Society, International, reports the loss of **Tom William Medlin**.

Lloyd Gibson, Clan Buchanan Arizona Commissioner, wrote the tribute for Mr. Medlin.

Tom Medlin, an imposing figure of a man. When Tom was near, if you knew him, you would be aware of his presence. His personality was as big as he was, he had a smile and a handshake for friend or stranger. His dedication to his family and to his clansmen was remarkable.

I spent two days with him in 2014 at two Highland games in Colorado Springs and the Elizabeth Colorado Games where we both manned both tents. We worked the counter.

Was Tom privy to some information passed onto him by a higher power? if so, that was pretty typical of how he took care of business. He was an honorable man who took quiet pride in his responsibilities. We talked endlessly, it seemed, about the future of the Clan Buchanan Society. He had ideas he wished to see implemented.

The contribution of time, energy management/guidance was done from the hearts of Tom and, his wife, Leona. His position as Regent he took seriously and performed his duties with enthusiasm. He always had consideration of others in mind. Also, with his "aw shucks" demeanor, Tom wanted to see an emphasis placed on recruiting younger members and preparing them through a written program for future leaders. We discussed this at length. He also saw the need for a benefit package for members.

In retrospect, I think Tom has been here before. I think, if he has not been here before, his spirit will return again in another form. He was too large a character to have passed through life only once.

I am so glad I had an opportunity to know him. He will certainly be missed by CBSI. It's difficult to fill a hole that big: Good trip, Tom. Thanks for giving us the opportunity to know you for a little while.

He is survived by his wife, Leona Medlin, sister, Joan Margaret and daughters Melissa Mabry, Kitty Redmon and Beverly Medlin. He is also survived by five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

He was drafted into the US Army in 1959 and earned the rank of Sergeant (E-5).

He and Leona were married in 1963 and celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary right before his passing. With cheesecake!

He earned a two year degree in psychology that came in handy while raising three headstrong, boisterous girls and one rough and tumble grandchild.

Tom retired from the USPS on December 31, 2007 with forty years of service. He was one of the last Civil Servants. He was a member of the Clan Buchanan Society, International where he served as Regent for many years.

He was always ready to don his kilt with fellow Scotsmen and participate in events.

*Remember to send your own  
Flowers of the Forest  
to [bethscribble@aol.com](mailto:bethscribble@aol.com)  
There is never a charge.*

Highlands & Islands  
Scottish Games  
Biloxi, MS  
Cancelled



**FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES**  
Linking the Genealogical Community

## **FGS and *Genealogy Gems* Team Up to Bring New FGS Membership Benefit**

**FGS Members Will Gain Access to an Affordable Solution for Programming Directors:**

### **Genealogy Gems for Societies**

Today we are proud to announce our partnership with *Genealogy Gems* which will bring a convenient solution to society programming directors — ***Genealogy Gems for Societies*** — a national-level programming package that provides an even more affordable benefit to FGS Members.

**This exciting new benefit provides a 25% discount on a complete 1-year package of *Genealogy Gems for Societies* subscription as well as a 10% discount for each FGS Member Society's member on Lisa's best-selling book, *The Genealogist's Google Toolbox, Second Edition*.** FGS Members can access this exciting new benefit by logging in to the **Members-only Area** on FGS.org for their exclusive 25% off discount code.

"FGS is excited to be partnering with Genealogy Gems," says D. Joshua Taylor, FGS President. "The opportunity to provide educational benefits for our member societies enriches the entire genealogical community as societies adapt and grow to meet the needs of today's members. This partnership offers FGS members access to a wide range of resources for their members and we look forward to working with Lisa Louise Cooke."

Providing societies a cost-effective way to deliver quality family history video presentations at regular meetings by internationally renowned speaker Lisa Louise Cooke **takes the headache out of programming.**

Lisa Louise Cooke writes: "Having served on the program committee of my local genealogy society in the past, I completely understand the challenges they face," says Lisa Louise Cooke, founder and owner of Genealogy Gems. "There are a limited number of quality speakers in any given geographical area, and it can be expensive to bring in speakers from out of town. We created *Genealogy Gems for Societies* to help solve that challenge. We're excited to partner with FGS because they see the value in this service and we share the same commitment to supporting local societies. This is a new concept in genealogy programming, and we are here to help you every step of the way."

**Additionally, Lisa will be presenting a live webinar as part of the 2015 FGS Webinar Series for societies later this month.** The webinar — *Utilize the Power of Video for Your Society's Programming and Marketing Efforts* — will be recorded and available afterwards to FGS Members only. Check *The Voice* blog for further details on how to register for it.

**If your society is not a member, join FGS to start accessing the suite of benefits an FGS Membership offers today's society.**

Sincerely,

Caroline M. Pointer, Vice-President of Membership, Federation of Genealogical Societies