

Borders Mill Saved!

Scotland's Selkirk mill owner Anthony Haines has been working at the looms for over 30 years but retirement time has caught him up as has the possibility of the closure of his Anthony Haines Textiles mill. However, his major customer Ingles Buchan has seized the opportunity to save the mill: Colin Brown, Ingles Buchan Managing Director said: "We're very pleased to have been able to take over from Anthony and preserve a vital part of Borders heritage. This will open up new avenues for us with Borders tweed as well as our conventional tartans."

The Flowers of the Forest

Graham Carson, 1936 – 2012. It was with great regret that we learned of the death in November 2012 of Graham Carson, a great friend of and adviser to, the Scottish Tartans Authority.

As one of the founding members of the STA in 1995, Graham's long business life and wide experience, coupled with his great enthusiasm for the kilt, benefited the fledgling STA enormously.

Its successful growth was largely attributable to his dedicated input and the preservation of Scotland's tartan heritage will forever be in his debt.

His wise counsel, his integrity and his sense of humour endeared him to all who came into contact with him and he will be sorely missed.

Our thoughts are with Buffy his widow and his extended family.

William D. "Don" Watkins Sr. 86 years, passed away July 12, 2012 after a short illness. He was born in Mogadore, and was a 1943 graduate of Mogadore High School. Don served in the Army Air Corps in England during World War II and later married his sweetheart, Ruth, in 1946. Don lived many years in Mogadore where he was a member of Mogadore Methodist Church, Mogadore Lions Club, and the American Legion. He was a former mayor of Mogadore and served on the Village Council. Don started his career with Adamson United and in 1987 retired from Wean United after 44 years of service. At that time, he and Ruth moved to Georgia where they enjoyed golfing. Preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Ruth; three great grandchildren; parents; sister, Florence Kurtz; and brothers, Merville and Raymond. Don is survived by son, William D. (Barbara) Watkins Jr. of Mogadore; daughters, Ellen (Gregg) Hagley of Grand Rapids, MI., Patricia (Charles) Jacobs of Omaha, NE; nine grandchildren; 12 great grandchildren; brother, Harold (Mary) Watkins of Akron; many nieces and nephews.

Jean Etta Burt Grube 2/11/1920 – 07/10/2010.

Jean was born at Columbus, Stillwater County, Mont., the youngest child of John David and Mary P. McDuffee Burt.

She graduated in 1937 as valedictorian of Newberg Union High School, winning a four-year scholarship to Linfield College at McMinnville. She graduated summa cum laude and valedictorian of the Linfield Class of 1942. Following graduation, she worked in Portland as a secretary. She had met Joseph Grube at Linfield and they were later married on Nov. 28, 1942, at Everett, Wash., where he was stationed as a P-39 pilot at Payne Field. She earned a teaching certificate at Southern Oregon College in 1957, the family moved to Lake Minchumina, Alaska, a remote weather station of the Civil Aeronautics Administration (now the Federal Aviation Administration), and, one year later, moved to Fairbanks, Alaska. She worked at the Yukon Command Library until she became executive secretary to the Commanding General of the Fort and to a series of Generals thereafter. When Fort Wainwright was downsized, she worked as secretary to several Vice-Presidents of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Jean retired in 1979, and she and Joe moved to Corvallis. Here she became active in the Mid-Valley Genealogical Society (now the Benton County Genealogical Society), holding many offices, especially as Librarian, for many years. She was also on the Benton County Historical Society Board of Directors for one term. For 10 years, she was treasurer of and a contributor to "Patchwork," a magazine published by her sister-in-law, Louise Burt. She was a long-time member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and several genealogical societies, and was national treasurer of the MacDuffee Clan Society of America. Over a five-year period she, along with several other members of the local genealogical society, inventoried all of the cemeteries in Benton County, establishing a database of more than 20,000 names.

As a Certified Genealogist, she taught several classes in genealogy at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and at Tanana Community College. In 1979, she published "Descendants of Nathan Spicer (1735-1811)." She also wrote a melodrama ("Until The Clock Strikes 12") that has been performed several times in the Benton County area as a fundraiser for nonprofit organizations.

As a young woman, she taught herself to play piano, became quite accomplished, and composed many pieces of music. She wrote poetry as well as family histories, and enjoyed knitting, crocheting and handwork. She dearly loved her family, and especially enjoyed gathering her family around her at the piano for an evening of singing!

She is survived by her husband of 67 years, Joseph; her sons Gareth (and his wife, Barbara), David (and his wife, Lynn), Michael (and his wife, Melanie), and daughter Kathleen ("Susie"), as well as five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Schedule of Events

Kickoff at the Capitol

Monday, February 4, 2013, 10 A.M. Georgia State Capitol, South Wing
Atlanta, GA

Join the Georgia Historical Society at the Capitol as we kick off the 2013 Georgia History Festival. There will be a guided tour of the Capitol at 10 a.m. followed by a kickoff ceremony in the South Wing. Children are encouraged to wear colonial-era costumes to help us commemorate the founding of the colony. The event is free of charge.

Contact Sophia Sineath at 912-651-2125, ext. 152 or ssineath@georgiahistory.com with questions.

Epidemics by Bryan Mulcahy

Throughout human history, peoples all across the world have been ravaged by epidemics. While most of these occurred prior to our modern advances in medicine, there are many parts of the world today where these issues continue to happen. Historically, when epidemics occur, entire towns and families are wiped out. Due to the fear of spreading disease, the remains were burned quickly with little if any effort made to document the names of the deceased or contact next of kin living outside the area or abroad.

The United States has faced its share of epidemics throughout our history. Two of the most severe were the yellow fever outbreak that swept through the South in 1841 and the infamous 1918 Spanish flu outbreak which quickly throughout the world eventually hitting the United States. This latter epidemic claimed the lives of an estimated 25 to 40 million people. Epidemics were often rampant in many parts of the country as part of our western expansion into the interior in the 1800s.

Our ancestors had a much shorter life span than modern medicine has allowed our current generations to enjoy. Two

of the most common causes of death were wars and epidemics. If you encounter a situation where your ancestors or a large number of residents within a given locality or region disappeared during a certain period of time in history, and there is no evidence of any war related explanation, an epidemic is a strong possibility. If an epidemic occurred within a given community, an event of this magnitude could be mentioned in any published county histories for the locality or region. The local health department of the community in question would be another source for information.

Many cases of people disappearing from records can be traced to dying during an epidemic or moving away from the affected region. Our companion study guide by the same title Epidemics will provide a comprehensive listing of the epidemics that have occurred within the continental United States.

BLM 1/9/2013 Bryan Mulcahy, M.L.S., Reference Librarian | Ft. Myers - Lee County Public Library 2050 Central Ave. Ft. Myers, FL 33901-3917
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Getting Back to Normal a Hair Closer

To keep everyone up to speed on the return of the BNFT publication: I have had trouble finding someone to teach me InDesign. Tech here won't let me come...There are no classes anywhere near enough to drive.

My dear friend, Susan Cromarty Stannard in Australia, has sent me some instructions I can understand, so I am now working myself.

If there is anyone else who can answer simple questions about InDesign, please let me know. I'm bethscribble@aol.com

I was a whiz on PageMaker, and InDesign is supposed to be the next step up in the PageMaker programs...but so far, I surely cannot tell that!

With thanks to: Clan Donald Mid-east

Story Corner: The Witch of Laggan

A great part of our Highland heritage comes forward to us in the form of stories or fables. For those of you who have children, great-grandchildren, nephews/nieces (or just like story time) this section will be a recurring piece of the Mid-East A' Bhratach—The Banner. Here is, The Witch of Laggan!

John Garve MacGillichallum of Raasay, was an ancient hero of great celebrity. Distinguished in the age in which he lived for the gallantry of his exploits, he has often been selected by the bard as the theme of his poems and songs.

Along with a constitution of body naturally vigorous and powerful, Raasay was gifted with all those noble qualities of the mind which a true hero is supposed to possess. He was active the active and inexorable enemy of the weird sisterhood, many of whom he was the auspicious instrument of send to their "black inheritance" much sooner than they either expected or desired. It was not therefore to be supposed that, while those amiable actions endeared Raasay to all the good people, they were at all calculated to win him the regard of those infernal hags to whom he was so deadly a foe.

As might be naturally expected, they held for him the most implacable thirst of revenge, and sought, with unremitting vigilance, for an opportunity of quenching it. That such an opportunity did unhappily occur, and that the

meditated revenge of these hags was too well accomplished,--will speedily appear from this melancholy story.

It happened upon a time that MacGillichallum and a number of friends planned an expedition to the island of Lewis, for the purpose of hunting the deer of that place. They accordingly embarked on board the chieftain's ship manned by the flower of the young men of Raasay, and in a few hours they chased the fleet bounding hart on the mountains of Lewis.

Their sport proved excellent. Hart after hart and hind after hind, were soon leveled to the ground by the unerring hand of Raasay; and when night ended the chase they retired to their shooting quarters, where they spent the night with joviality and mirth, little dreaming that of their melancholy fate in the morning.

In the morning of the next day, the chief of Raasay and his followers rose with the sun, with the view of returning home. The day was squally and the billows raged with great violence. But MacGillichallum was determined to cross the channel to return home, and ordered his ship to prepare for the voyage.

The more cautious and less courageous of his group, however, urged him to defer the expedition till the weather should somewhat settle, --an advice which Raasay, with a courage which knew no fear, rejected,-- and he expressed his firm determination to proceed, probably with a view to inspire his company with the necessary degree of courage to induce them all to concur in the undertaking, he adjourned with them to a recourse of spirits, the usquebaugh, a few bottles of which added vastly to the resolution of the company.

Just as the party were disputing the practicability of the proposed adventure, an old woman, with wrinkled front, bending on a crutch, entered ; and Raasay, in the heat of argument, appealed to the old woman, whether the passage of the channel on such a day was not perfectly practicable and free from danger. The woman, without hesitation, replied in the affirmative, adding such observations, reflecting on their courage, as immediately silenced every opposition to the voyage; and accordingly the whole party embarked in

the ship headed for Raasay.

But before the traveler had got the length of Glenbanchar, the rider overtook him on his return, with the foresaid woman before him across his saddle, and one of the dogs fixed in her breast, and another in her thigh. "Where did you overtake the woman?" inquired the traveler.

"Just as she was entering the churchyard of Dalarossie," was his replay.

On the traveller's return home, he heard the fate of the unfortunate Wife of Laggan, which soon explained the nature of the company he had met on the road. It was, no doubt, the soul of the Wife of Laggan flying for protection from the infernal spirits (to whom she had sold her soul), to the churchyard of Dalarossie, which is so

sacred a place that a witch is immediately dissolved from all her ties with Satan on making a pilgrimage to it, either dead or alive.

But it seems the unhappy wife of Laggan was a stage too late.

April 6th is National Tartan Day

Americans of Scottish descent have played a vibrant and influential role in the development of this country. However not until 1997 was this influence recognized by a single year U.S. Senate Resolution that appeared in the Congressional Record of April 7, 1997.

In 1998 National Tartan Day was officially recognized on a permanent basis when the U.S. Senate passed Senate

Resolution recognizing April 6th as National Tartan Day. This was followed by companion bill House Bill 41 which was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on March 9, 2005.

The passage of this bill was due to the work of the National capital Tartan Committee, and president James Morrison.

That date commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Arbroth in 1320, which asserted Scotland's sovereignty over English territorial claims, and which was an influence on the American Declaration of Independence.

Be sure wear a piece of your own tartan to work, or school, and let us know how you celebrate this historic day.

Send to: bethscribble@aol.com

Pipers for Heroes

The Scottish-American Military Society (SAMS) has organized and instituted a program called "Pipers for Heroes". The purpose of the program is to maintain a listing of pipers throughout the USA who have indicated a willingness to make themselves available of piping services for military or veteran support, intended primarily for funerals, memorial services, or returns from combat areas.

Actual arrangements are to be made between the piper and the person with the need. The understanding of the pipers is that they will donate the service but, again, that is up to those involved.

The contact SAMS person and a list of pipers available, organized by state, can be seen by going to the SAMS website (S-A-M-S.org) and clicking on the links choice. Then, within the Pipers for Heroes box, clicking on any of the service medallions will get you to the coordinating person's information. If this window comes up without the listing, full-sizing the window will reveal the listing of the pipers, by state.