

## Flowers of the Forest

We are saddened to report that Joe Kozlosky lost his wife, Ginger, yesterday., February 10th.

Joe and Ginger were early and very active long-time members of the Atlanta St Andrew's Society, Stone Mountain Highland Games, the Atlanta Pipe Band and Scottish Country Dancing.

As Doug Grey put it, Joe and Ginger were Atlanta area pioneers in all things Scottish. Ginger was born in Dundee, Scotland. She moved to the Cleveland, OH, area where she met Joe. Ginger is survived by four children as well as her devoted husband.

-----

## St. Andrew Society of Tallahassee, Florida speeches

Of particular interest to genealogists, and especially those interested in learning more about your ancestors, our guest speaker will be Melody Porter at the March 5th covered dish supper at Friendship Presbyterian Church. Her subject title for the evening is: "Finding Family".

It is really a primer to a four-part "Introduction to Genealogy" course she has agreed to teach to St. Andrew Society members only. Although she normally receives \$50 per person, she has agreed to teach this course for \$25 per person. Dates and times will be announced at the covered dish on 3/5. Space for this course may be limited so stay tuned...or come to the covered dish supper!

Melody is a proud Native American as voting member of the Western Cherokee Tribe and also of Choctaw blood. She is the Registrar for the Thomasville Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and has been a genealogy lecturer for the Florida State Genealogical Society, the LDS Family History Center in Tallahassee, Nova Southeastern University and many local societies and organizations.

-----

## Road Rally – you're invited on Sunday, March 10th 2:00 - 5.00

A fun casual drive. No stop watches needed.

Easy-to-follow directions. Less than 80 miles.

Beautiful 2-hour Sunday drive - great scenery!

The more passengers the more fun.

Must obey all traffic laws, signs and speed limits.

Easy-to-answer questions based on what you see during the drive.

Prizes awarded for "Best Time/Accurate Observations" and "Scottish Trivia Quiz".

Apres-Rally award ceremony, food, libation and congenial company at the Steel City Restaurant.

Per car donation \$20...so load up with your friends (navigators)!

Start time: 2:00 in Tallahassee Mall parking lot across from Silver Slipper Dr. (Steel City Restaurant).

Call Eric King at 445.1077 and sign up TODAY!

-----

Hi Folks! I am really and truly on the hunt for someone to teach me InDesign. Best as I can do, it looks like, is to sign up for one of the online classes. I really am working on this and frustrated that it is taking so long.

I don't think I have ever mourned before as I have the last few weeks have been so hard. You know that I had to put

Miss Narra to sleep. There was no choice as her heart was beating 260 times per minute...and she had stopped eating. I can't seem to stop crying.

Thank you so much for cards and sweet notes. She was truly a personality that we won't see ever again. Love,  
beth

-----

Monday, February 11, 2013

Surname Searching...Ya Gotta Think Outside the Box

9:30am-11:30am

Speaker: Ms. Joanne Ryder, SW Florida Germanic Genealogy Society, Charlotte County Genealogical Society.

The most basic piece of information about ancestor families is the surname, yet this piece of information can be confusing and complex. Because of the many changes surnames have undergone, we may look in the right place and the right time frame and still not recognize our ancestor. This is one area of genealogy in which you have to be extremely creative... and "think outside of the box!"

-----

Monday, February 25, 2013

Timelines and Genealogical Research

9:30am – 11:30am

Speaker: Ms. Joanne Ryder, SW Florida Germanic Genealogy Society, Charlotte County Genealogical Society

Timelines can be an invaluable tool for genealogical research. Understanding the events that were the backdrop for your ancestors' lives will give you new insight about how they lived and the decisions they made. Learn how to put a timeline together to see a clearer picture of the lifetime of your ancestor.

Bryan Mulcahy, M.L.S.  
Reference Librarian | Ft. Myers - Lee County Public Library  
2050 Central Ave.  
Ft. Myers, FL 33901-3917  
bmulcahy@leegov.com  
Voice 239-533-4626 | Fax 239-485-1160  
leelibrary.net

-----

Thanks to Vicki Hild for thos most fascinating article!

What Remains of Jarl Henry Sinclair's Castle in Kirkwall, Orkney?  
Vicki A. Hild

Editor's Note: In August, Vicki and her husband visited Scotland. One of their goals during the visit was to research Vicki's ancestor, Jarl Henry Sinclair. At the Clan Gunn Museum, the Hilds had the fortune of meeting our Chief Malcolm Caithness and conversed with him about Henry. On returning to the States, Vicki sent Malcolm her research notes about Henry and Kirkwall Castle which he enjoyed and asked her to write the following article for "Yours Aye."

What remains of Jarl Henry Sinclair's Castle in Kirkwall, Orkney? At first glance, nothing. One will find no brass plaque marking the site or a brochure describing the man who built it, the Castle's history, or its demise. Looking for evidence of the Castle is like looking for evidence on the man who built the castle and sailed to the New World in 1398. The evidence is there if one knows where to look.

So, what remains of Henry's Castle? Literally bits and pieces.

Henry becomes Jarl of Orkney

On August 2nd, 1379 King Haakon VI of Norway installed Henry Sinclair, Lord of Roslin, as Jarl of Orkney. There was a long list of obligations to which Henry had to comply, and he promised to do so sometime (Clouston, 1914, pp. 21-26; Thomson, 2012, pp. 160, 161, 163).

Henry had to promise that he would make no league with William, Bishop of Orkney, nor enter into or establish any friendship with him, and that Henry would assist the King against the Bishop William if called upon by the King to do so.

Evidently Bishop William had been a thorn in the side of King Haakon for sometime, at least by 1369 (Clouston, 1914, pp. 15 -18).

Henry had to promise in good faith that he would not build or construct castles or other fortifications in the Orkneys without having first obtained permission from King Haakon.

Kirkwall Castle in Henry's Time

In circa 1380, Henry began building Kirkwall Castle. Henry's reasoning was, that as he could not make a league with Bishop William, he required a place of residence, at least equal in strength to the Bishop's Palace, which had accommodations for a large garrison (Hossack, 1900, p. 15).

The building of the massive Kirkwall Castle restored the balance of power between Bishop William and Jarl Henry, but it meant going against the royal command (Schei, 2007 pp. 174-175; Wickham-Jones, 2011, p. 149). In August 1434, upon the installation of William St. Clair as 3rd Earl of Orkney, a clause was inserted stipulating that the tower or castle (*illa turris*) which was built in Kirkwall without the consent of the King of Norway shall be ceded, along with all Orkney and the Orkney Isles, on the death of the Earl

(Clouston, 1914, p. 49). Today, if you walk down Broad and Castle Streets in Kirkwall, you are walking on the site of Henry's Castle. Henry constructed his Castle on the shore of the Peerie Sea at a high point, and upon the site of the Norse Bu as Burton (1874) records. Hossack (1900, p. 5) reports "he [Henry] cleared away the Old Hall of the Norse Earls and built his castle." (Figure A.) At that time the Peerie [Small] Sea came up to what is now Broad Street on which was built the outer curtain wall and Castle entrance facing the natural harbor.

Henry's Castle dominated the northwest corner of Broad Street (Clouston, 1932, p. 282). The other two significantly large buildings in this small northern community were St. Magnus Cathedral (still in use today), and the Bishop's Palace.

The ruins of the Palace can be seen today, but "The lowest floor dates...perhaps to the residency of Bishop William" (Wickham-Jones, 2011, p. 131). (Figure A.) Thus, Henry siting his stronghold on the bay, a mere hundred yards north of the Cathedral, was sending a strong message to the troublesome Bishop William in his palace (White, 2010, p. 33).

By the time Henry completed building his Castle in about 1383, Kirkwall was divided between two masters. The "Laverock" was church land administered by the Bishop, while the Burgh was under Henry's control on behalf of the King of Norway (Orkney Islands Council, n.d.).

In 1867 it was noted that a part of Henry's Castle formerly stood on the site occupied by "The Castle Hotel" (now #1 Broad Street and the location of Lloyds TSB Scotland bank), which had been so named to commemorate its ancient predecessor (Wilson, 1867, p. 1).

The Castle was apparently rectangular in shape and in 1866 its last remains were described as consisting of a wall 55 feet long by 11 feet thick (Commemorative stone plaque on Castle Street, 1866). The Castle was positioned so that ships Unfortunately, the sandstone plaque blends into the beige wall of the building; one has to be looking up to notice it as the bottom edge is six feet above the sidewalk, and the top edge is

over nine feet above grade, so it is missed by many tourists walking by on the narrow sidewalk. And to be read, one must stand in the street.

About two-thirds of this building with its chimneys and three eastern windows appear in the 1865 Peace etching.(Figure C.)

2. Many of the remaining Castle stones were used in the construction of other Kirkwall buildings. One noted was the Old Tollbooth in 1740, which was demolished in 1890 (Burgher, 1999, p. 13). Castle stones were also used in the construction of the Town House and Jail in 1742 (Wilson, 1867, p. 5).

In 1865 the remaining castle stones were removed and used to construct the west pier in today's Kirkwall harbor that is lined on the east side with cast iron (Hossack, 1900, p. 27).

A historic guide states that masons' marks can be found on some of these stones (Orkney Islands Council, n.d.). With permission of the Harbor Master one can walk along the wall to look for these marks on the Castle stones. Due to limited time during a recent visit, only a cursory inspection was possible. The stones are dressed and stonemasons' marks are evident, but no masons' marks were found.

There is one stone that appears to have a carving of a budded cross or a cross with a fleur de le or flying ird at each point that is about 3 x 6 inches. It is the 19th capping stone south from the northern end. It is on the upper face in the southeast corner of the stone with the top of the cross to the east.

On the northeast side of the harbor (no permission needed from the Harbor Master to access and view), regularly cut large stones can still be seen. The stones used in the building of the castle were massive and dense, and these appear to be some of them.

3. Castle well. Hossack (1900, p. 27) states that the Castle Well still existed, though covered and that it is lined with dressed freestone, and is under the road, about midway between the opposite houses at the head of Castle Street. This seems accurate, as there is a natural gully in the hill to the east beyond the location described and perhaps an aquifer, which would run toward the manhole cover in front of #6 Broad Street, which is described in a map in Hossack as the "Castleyards." This location would presumably have been inside the castle walls.

4. Today much of the Castle's foundations are probably still buried beneath the streets and

buildings of Kirkwall. In circa 2011, underground utility work in front of #3 Broad Street uncovered part of the Castle wall and a door. (Figure D.) No comprehensive archeological investigation was made and the site was covered after the street work was completed. If descriptive notes, photos, or other document ation is conducted when Castle sub-structures are sailing into thuncovered, perhaps in time we will be able to approximate the size and shape of Henry's Castle more accurately.

5. The most exciting find was the Coat-of-Arms that once adorned Henry's Castle. Figure B on the previous page shows the W. T. Sinclair store with three stone markers. The Arrow #1 plaque was described previously. The highest stone plaque, Arrow #2, is about two by three feet, has been lost, and it is not recorded what message it may have

contained, but it is thought to have been a stone from the Castle. The smallest stone plaque, Arrow #3, is about nine inches squared. Pohl (1974, p. 51) cites Clouston that “above the gate of the Castle was the Sinclair Coat-of-Arms, cut in a block of red sandstone.”

Viewed today, the small 9 x 9 inch red sandstone plaque shows the Sinclair Engrailed Cross and what appears to be a sailing ship in the upper left quadrant. (Figure E.) To view the stone, which is about 24 feet above the sidewalk, one must stand either in the street or on the opposite sidewalk. This stone is weather-worn and viewed from street level it was not possible to tell what else may be carved into it, but it could be the same as, or similar to, the Sinclair Coat-of-Arms shown in Pohl’s book (1974, p. 54).

The origin of the stone was confirmed as the heraldic stone on the site of the Kirkwall Castle as the Sinclair Arms and was originally located above the entrance (C. Wickham-Jones personal communication, 19 September 2012).

So for the present these are the only remains of Henry’s Castle. Hopefully more will be discovered when additional historic accounts are found and with subsequent “street work” excavations.

tainly not much remains, considering the size and the importance Henry’s Castle once held, but at least not all has been lost for those who seek.

Imagine

Imagine with me if you will. Standing today in front of The Reel Bistro at the head of Castle Street at Broad, looking to the west. (Figure F.) On your left is the Clydesdale Bank and across the street is the Lloyds Bank, marking where once stood the west walls of Kirkwall Castle with the entrance just before you on Castle Street. Today’s view is fading, revealing the massively thick Castle walls that reach toward the sky. Just outside the entry gate with its formidable portcullis raised, you see the Peerie Sea gently lapping just at its edge. Look a little beyond to see several of Jarl Henry’s ships and a Norwegian ship anchored there.

Look up. Atop the Castle armed sentries keep watch over the harbor to provide protection for the Jarl’s and friendly ships anchored there, and destruction to foes who would dare attack the Castle by sea.

Turn around – the courtyard is abound with activity.

Servants scurrying about attending to their tasks; men-at-arms strategically placed and ever ready to respond to orders from their Lord; and the squeals and peels of laughter of the younger Sinclair children at play. In front of you is the entrance leading to the main hall – imagine the size and magnificence of the interior furnishings. In the last direct sunlight warming a corner of the courtyard stands Jarl Henry, talking with his guests, emissaries of Queen Margrete of Norway.

As the long dusk of the North descends, Lady Janet emerges from the hall to call the children in from their play. Not wanting to end their fun, a servant must shoo the reluctant children inside.

From the corner of his eye, Jarl Henry spies Janet’s approach, his serious countenance warming with a smile. The conversation turns lighter with her presence.

The aromas of tonight’s feast whiff through the air; roasting meats and pungent spices making your mouth water. The glow welcoming friends and family is warm.

Although the troublesome Bishop William is dead, the impenetrable portcullis is lowered. Jarl Henry is a cautious man

The sound of the music from the hall announces the feast is ready. Taking Lady Janet by the arm, Jarl Henry and his wife lead their guests into the hall for the feast.

Welcome to Kirkwall Castle and enjoy the evening.

## Note

Would it not be appropriate if there were a brass plaque on a stone placed at the head of Castle Street, a location more conveniently visible than the stone plaque on the Lloyds Bank building wall, marking the site of Kirkwall Castle and noting Jarl Henry Sinclair as its builder? Perhaps a booklet could be produced with more information about the Castle's history and the role of Jarl Henry? A project for Clan Sinclair??

Thank you

Thanks to you - my ancestor, Jarl Henry Sinclair; Carl, my husband stone sculptor and partner in sleuthing; The Right Honorable Malcolm Sinclair, Earl of Caithness, Hereditary Chief of Clan Sinclair, who asked me to write this article; Tom Muir Exhibition Officer, Orkney Museums and Heritage as well

as the staff of the Orkney Museum in Kirkwall; Orkney Library and Archive staff in Kirkwall; the staff at the Kirkwall Tourist Information Center; the Kirkwall Harbor Master; Caroline Wickham-Jones, Department of Archaeology, University of Aberdeen; and the staff of the Orkney Islands Council offices.

## References

Burgher, L. (1999). *Orkney: An illustrated architectural guide*. Edinburgh, UK: Rutland.

Burton, J. H. (1874) *The history of Scotland, Volume II*. Edinburgh, UK: William Blackwood & Sons.

Calder, J. T. (1887). *History of Caithness: Sketch of the civil and traditional history of Caithness from the 10th century – Second edition with historical notes by Thomas Sinclair, MA*. Wick; Wm. Rae, Thurso; John Malcolm & Miss Russell. Retrieved from [www.caithness.org/history/historyofcaithness/index.htm](http://www.caithness.org/history/historyofcaithness/index.htm)

Clouston, J. S. (1932). *A history of Orkney*. Kirkwall, UK: W. R. Mackintosh.

Clouston, J. S. (Ed.). (1914). *Records of the Earldom of Orkney 1299 – 1614*. Edinburgh, UK: University Press, Scottish Historical Society.

Hossack, B. H. (1900). *Kirkwall in the Orkneys*. Kirkwall, UK:

William Peace & Son.

Orkney Islands Council. (n.d.). *Kirkwall heritage guide*. Kirkwall, UK: Orcadian.

Peace, T. S. (Circa 1865). *Ruins of the castle of the St. Clair's,*

*Kirkwall*. 728.81 – Kirkwall Castle – L253/1. Photo Archive

Collection, Orkney Library & Archive, Kirkwall, Orkney, UK.

Photo. (Circa 1930). *Castle and Broad Street looking northwest at the*

*W. T. Sinclair store*. Photo Archive Collection, Orkney Library & Archive, Kirkwall, Orkney, UK.

Photo. (Circa 2011). *Street work in front of #3 Broad Street showing Kirkwall Castle wall and door underground.*

Photo Archive Collection, Orkney Library & Archive, Kirkwall, Orkney, UK. Pohl, F. J. (1974). *Prince Henry Sinclair – His expedition to the New World in 1398*. London, UK: Davis-Poynter. Schei, L. K. (2007). *The Islands of Orkney*. Grantown-on-Spey, UK: Colin Baxter.

Thomson, W. P. L. (2012) *The New History of Orkney*. Edinburgh, UK: Birlinn Ltd.

White, R. (2010). *These stones bear witness*. Bloomington, IN: Author-House.

Wickham- Jones, C. (2011). *Orkney a historical guide*. Edinburgh, UK: Birlinn Limited.

Wilson, J. (1867). *The King's Castle Kirkwall: A short history of the old Castle of Kirkwall which stood partly on the site of The Castle Hotel*. Kirkwall, UK: Orcadian.water.e harbor and approaching Kirkwall were in clearview of the castle's garrison.