



# THE COCHRAN(E) HERITAGE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CLAN COCHRANE IN NORTH AMERICA



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FROM THE PIPES OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

Dear Clanspeople:

Don (our Editor) and I have been busy moving. He has moved to the other side of the island where he has to put up with eagles, the water, and other irritants of paradise. I'm about to move 70 miles north of Baltimore where Pennsylvania and Delaware come together with Maryland. It's the last of the farmland in the horse country of Maryland and I've got my crumb. Be patient as we work this out. Those of you who have been loyal members know that Clan Cochrane has been going thru a lot of changes and growing pains. Some have been good and some have been bad, but we're trying to give you a good product. As with any organization it is dependent on the membership to help make us what we are. Many people say they would do things but few follow thru. I've been trying to find those members who are willing to make that effort to help. I think we now have a good group. We actually ask for very little. What we need are members who are willing to sponsor a tent at one of the games in your area. We'll supply you with everything else including a tent. What we also need are correspondence among the membership. Give us a "Letters to the Editor" column. If you know of an interesting story or an observation, share it with us. It all helps.

My concentration has been on the two coasts. Clan Cochane on the West Coast is growing fast. We have a Commissioner Carol Yaremko and Michael Cochrane, our Treasurer, both living in California; Virginia Martin our archivist is in Seattle. On the East Coast we have John Cochrane as the Commissioner for the State of Georgia. John has been with us for a long time and does one heck of a job running the tent at Stone Mountain. Our newest member of the working hierarchy is Jim Cochrane the Commissioner for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Jim recently represented us at the Scotchtown Games north of Richmond. Laurie Clarkston in Spotsylvania, VA has been researching fauna that is common to both North America and

Scotland. She has whittled it down to about 200. Her goal is to find a plant that she can present to the Earl of Dundonald to use as a cap plant.

We now have a core group of dedicated members and our participation in the Highland Gatherings has increased. I'm satisfied that we've grown and more and more people are becoming involved. But we need more volunteers. We should be able to easily cover New England and the Canadian Maritime's but we need to be there! There are games from Chicago thru the middle of the States and we need you to be there for you.

Some of the things I'm working on, are, a list of merchants that sell highland wear, ie Kiltmakers, silversmiths, where to get tartan, etc. This would be the best merchants I've found, quality articles, and those merchants who either supply Cochrane related articles, or know how to make it.

Another project I'm working on is a pamphlet entitled "The Castles and Great Houses of Clan Cochrane". This would be a list of Cochrane homes and where to find them. The main project is, of course, Genealogy. People are always asking questions and since we are a relatively small group we can start now while it's easy and build it into something. This will be an important project. I would like to have computer capabilities for members. A genealogical chart will be included in the membership renewals. I am open for suggestions.

We will be having a general meeting at the Virginia Scottish Games located at the Episcopal High School in Alexandria on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of July. All members in the vicinity are encouraged to attend.

Three years ago I was elected to be your president. We haven't had an election since then and I feel that we need to have one. If not an election at least a vote of confidence. The final newsletter of this year, when memberships are due, you will be asked to vote nah or yea. I've enjoyed the honor of being president and I wish to continue in this capacity but I don't feel that I can unless you want me and approve of the changes I've made.

Have a good summer and I'll hope to see many of you at Alexandria.

Michael

### THE COCHRANE SPOTLIGHT

Last December I received a book from Bill Cochran of Highland, California. The name of the book was "In the Line of Duty". It contains a number of very interesting stories about various police officers killed in the line of duty. Bill thought that the following story might be of interest to our members. I have edited it because of our need for brevity.

### COCHRANES IN THE NEWS

Alexander M. Cochran III (known by the family as "Sandy" and by his law enforcement and military colleagues as "Al"), was a Virginia State Trooper and a Member of the Second Air Lift Platoon of the Virginia National Guard. At 27, Sandy was an outstanding law enforcement officer, assigned to patrolling the Virginia section of the Washington D.C. metropolitan area's Beltway superhighway. In the previous year, he ranked third in his division for drunk-driving arrests. In the six months before his death, he nabbed 42 intoxicated drivers. When the cases

went to court, he lost only one, "and that was my fault" he told his father. Sandy was determined, to improve his near-perfect record "That will never happen again!"

As his twenty-eighth birthday neared, Sandy was just about to reach some important goals. The son of a former Air Force jet pilot, Sandy wanted to fly a helicopter for the National Guard unit he had been with for eight years. His ultimate goal was to fly Medivac for the Virginia State Police, having been an Emergency Medical Technician and Lieutenant in the Callao, Virginia Rescue Squad. He been taking helicopter lessons in Manassas, Virginia, and soon he would be undertaking his first solo flight.

"I just knew that one day soon I'd pick up the phone and Sandy would be saying "I did it! I Soloed!" his father Mickey told me. Sand was also scheduled to receive a promotion to the State Police TAC Team in just four days.

But Sandy never got his promotion, and he never got to fly solo. And his dad never got that proud telephone call. Instead, Mickey Cochran says, "Here I was going along fat, dumb, and happy, and the doorbell rings."

Mickey Cochran will never forget the night of January 12, 1987. At 12:15 a.m. his wife said, "Somebody's at the door." They saw three State police cars in front of the house.

Maybe it was her mother's instinct that told Katherine Cochran what had happened before another word was spoken. "Sandy's been killed!" she said. Her husband's nope held out a few seconds longer. "No, he's just been hurt or something." Sandy's fellow Troopers confirmed the Cochrans' worst fears.

That morning Sandy had been assigned to a special FBI anti-drug detail. His regular State Police shift would have started at 3:00 p.m. but his sergeant excused him from it. Sandy spent the afternoon running errands and shopping. He was unloading the groceries when he heard shots. "Those aren't firecrackers," Sandy said. Technically Sandy was off-duty. But, as any law enforcement officer will tell you, there's really no such thing as off-duty. When people need help, you react. Sandy responded without a second's hesitation. He started out the door, then ran back to get his service revolver. Running out into the townhouse development's shared parking lot and lawn, he saw a woman crouched over a man who had been shot. She was screaming, "Get an ambulance! Get an ambulance!"

Sandy headed to his parked cruiser to call for help on his radio. The neighbor who had been talking to Sandy reports that at this moment he saw something out of the corner of his eye, a figure moving behind a second-floor window. Maybe Sandy saw it, too, because it seems he was just turning his head when the shot rang out.

A single gunshot blast hit Sandy in the back and the head as he was passing in front of his police car. He died instantly at 9:24 p.m. only nine minutes after talking to his sister.

Within three seconds, the shooter turned and fired again, fatally wounding Army Sergeant Dennis R. Klief who lived in the townhouse complex. He also shot at an off-duty Fairfax County Police officer, who was not hit.

By the time more police officers arrived on the scene, the shooter had created a scene of complete devastation in the usually peaceful neighborhood. Two men dead, one man seriously wounded. They quickly apprehended the suspect, a man name Larry Gill.

Larry Gill got off easy. Charged with only two counts of first-degree murder, one attempted capital murder (for shooting at the off-duty Fairfax County police officer), and one count of malicious wounding. Gill was convicted on two counts of second-degree murder, one count of

malicious wounding and three counts of commission of a felony with a firearm. The attempted murder charge was thrown out.

Gill received combined sentences of 55 years. Under Virginia law, that means that with good behavior, he can be eligible for parole in 1996.

### NEWS FROM CLAN COCHRANE IN AUSTRALIA

Over the years we have always enjoyed an excellent relationship with our kinsmen in Australia. This relationship continues in great part thanks to Sandra Florence, the editor of the Australian Newsletter.

This very interesting publication arrives a number of times each year and I enjoy the many items of activity that the Clan "Down Under" have on their calendars. I have not had personal contact with the Clan in New Zealand but the Australian newsletter has reference to a report from Joan in Christchurch, N.Z.

This issue has such interesting news stories as:

1. The Clan Cochrane Picnic held in Sydney.
2. A list of Cochrane casualties of WW1
3. A poetic tribute by Joan Crooks to her grandmother, Mary Cochrane Todd 1840-1898.
4. Quotable Cochranes – items about members of Clan from historic writings. See special item "Flip Corkin" (in this issue).
5. A picture of "Cochrane" streets, this issue shows Cochrane Street in Hong Kong.

Sandra included a letter to me that read in part: "We are having trouble getting new members and keeping old ones – I put it down to our economic recession! However, I will muddle on and produce the newsletter for the faithful and keen members (about 40). S.F.

It seems as if, Clan Cochrane in North America and Australia have membership problems in common as well. Thanks Sandra for the letter and the Newsletter. We hope you enjoy our latest issue.

### THE GENEALOGISTS CORNER

Seeking any information about ancestors of Christian C. Cochran, born 19 April 1691, Linlithgow (West Lothian), Scotland, daughter of George and Agnes (Smith) Cochran. She married about 1718, Andrew Stanners. George Cochran born 15 January 1659, was a cordwainer and served as Burgess of Linlithgow in 1718. George was the son of George and Agnes (Shields) Cochran/Cochran.

Seeking the parents of John Cochran, who emigrated from Pennsylvania to Rowan County, North Carolina about 1780, where his double cousin, Samuel Cochran lived. Later, he removed to Lincoln County, NC. John's father may have been Robert Cochran of Pennsylvania.

Send questions and response to Cynthia Cochran Scheuer-Jones, 6260 Keith Bridge Rd., Gainesville, GA 30506-3906.

## STEPPING OUT ON THE WRONG FOOT!

In December after our last issue I received a very nice letter from H.S. (Smith) Cochran of Morgantown, N.C. He mentioned that he had a letter from the author of the *Fighting Cochranes*, Alexander Cochrane in 1989. He has not heard from him since and wonders if anyone has heard from Alexander Cochrane.

“Smith” also raises an interesting question. He writes, “I notice on the Family Crest on the Heritage may be in error. I enclose Alexander Cochranes reply to my question on this.”

You asked if Ida Cochran Haughton erred when she described the Cochran Crest as a horse with its left front foot raised. Well I don’t know where she got her information from but clearly this representation shows the horse with the right foot (i.e. dexter) foot raised.

I would add that in Burke’s *Baronage and Knightage* the section devoted to the Dundonalds shows the armorial bearings (the “heraldic achievement”, to give it its correct title) in a slightly different form but with the horse holding its right (i.e. dexter) foot raised. I have seen many representations of the “heraldic achievement”, but always with the horse and the dexter (right) foot raised. Burke describes the Crest as “A horse, passant, arg.” This, translated from heraldic language, means “A horse, walking, silver-coloured”. It does not say specifically that the horse has a particular foot raised, but I have never seen it with other than the right (i.e. dexter) foot raised. I think you may safely take it that the right foot is not only “dexter” but “correct”.

Editor’s note: I must admit I was interested in Smith’s question. The horse that we use in our Herald for the newsletter came from the material I received originally from our first Commissioner. It is exactly the same as the one shown with the article on the Earl of Dundonald that was published in the Scottish Field magazine and I might add, that I use on my own stationary. The photocopy of the bookplate is the one used on Alexander Cochrane’s book. So, once again we have two versions like Cochrane and Cochran we now have a left foot and a right foot controversy.



Arms of the Chief