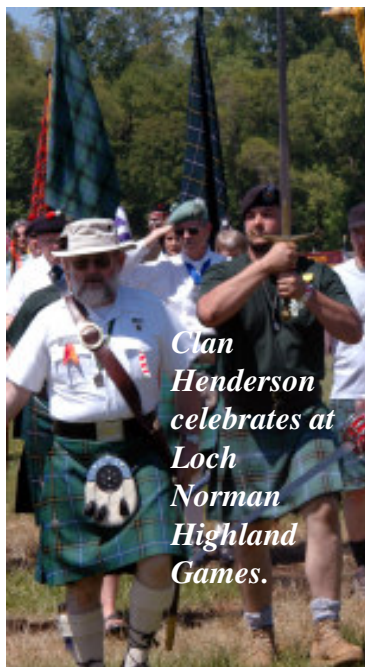




*Volume I - Number I- Section 3    Beth's Newfangled Family Tree    June 2007*

## April declared Scots Heritage Month in NC!

**Whereas** April the sixth marks the Six hundred and eighty-seventh anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Abroath, in which Scotland declared its independence from England and is one of the precursors of the United States Declaration of Independence.



**Whereas** more than 27 million Americans can trace their roots back to Scotland and the Scottish plantations in Northern Ireland. Whereas the state of North Carolina was the primary destination of Scots and Scots-Irish immigrants and this state continues to lead the country in residents of Scottish and Scotch-Irish descent.

**Whereas** the Scots and Scots-Irish cultural identity reflects individualism, a strong work ethic, family loyalty, patriotism and their faith in God.

**Whereas** the Scots and Scots-Irish self reliance and their unbending spirit helped to shape the unmistakable character of this country.

**Whereas** education has always played an important part of Scottish society and the Scots and Scots-Irish im-

migrants helped to establish the early development of schools and colleges in this country and help create the framework of our governing bodies.

**Whereas** fifty-six of the signers of the United States Declaration of Independence, and nine of the governors of the original thirteen colonies were of Scottish descent.

**Whereas** the Scots and Scots-Irish have been instrumental in the development of American industry, education, medicine and military, in short, much of what makes the United States of America the great nation that we have become, we respectfully request that the President, George W. Bush, issue a Presidential Proclamation designating the month of April as NATIONAL SCOTS, SCOTS-IRISH HERITAGE MONTH and officially recognize the many contributions of the Scots and Scots-Irish to American history, culture and society by proclaiming the month of April to be National Scots and Scots-Irish Heritage Month as celebrated in the state of North Carolina.

We the members of the Triad Saint Andrew's Society, The Triad Highland Games The Scottish Heritage Society of the Blue Ridge and the Scottish American Military Society, The Catawba Valley Scottish Society, The Scottish Heritage Society of Eastern North Carolina, The Clan Campbell Society of North America, The Clan Murray Society of North America, The Loch Norman Highland Games, Clan Donnachaidh Society, Border History and Reivers Cup and The Triad Fiddlers and Friends Society do hereby declare the month of April 2007 to be NATIONAL SCOTS AND SCOTS-IRISH HERITAGE MONTH in the state of North Carolina and the entire United States of America.

# The real reason for Rosslyn Chapel

Book Review by Bob Ferguson

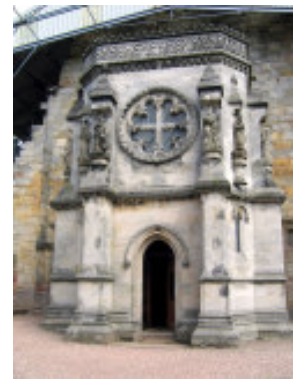
**crflawyer@earthlink.net**

*The Rosslyn Hoax? Viewing Rosslyn Chapel from a new perspective*, Robert L.D. Cooper, Lewis [Masonic] Publishing, (England, 2006).

Last summer a book was published in England, which effectively bursts the bubble of the myths, which have emerged in the last half-century about the Knights Templar in Scotland, and Rosslyn Chapel. The book was not available in the United States except by direct mail order. It will be available in paperback beginning in June 2007.

Because the book effectively annihilates many Scottish Templar myths, a discussion of the book must be prefaced by a description of the author, his methods and research.

The author, Robert L.D. Cooper, is the Curator of the Grand Lodge of Scotland Museum and Library. He is what would be called a “professional Free Mason”. From the content of his book and his excellent attention to detail, it is evident that he is imminently qualified to write on both the subject of the Free Masons and the Knights Templar. The book discusses and analyses the popular myths surrounding the origin of Free Masonry and its relationship to the Knights Templar from a Scottish perspective. He does not mince word. Specifically, the book examines the following question:



“What evidence is there that members of the Medieval Order of Knights Templar fled from France and settled in Scotland assisted by Robert the Bruce at the Battle of Bannockburn (1314) and, that as a reward for their services, he created an ‘underground organization’ —Free Masonry — within which they could hide their true identify and preserve their ‘treasure’ and esoteric knowledge?” He also addresses two subsidiary issues:

“What part, if any, did the St. Clair family at Rosslyn Chapel play in the alleged continuance of the Knights Templar (in the guise of being Free Masons) in Scotland?”

And, “*Is there any other extant physical evidence which supports any of the above?*” (Italics the Author’s.)

In conducting his analysis, Mr. Cooper divides the literature into that which is written in accordance with “the Academic Approach” and that which is written as “the Popular or Alternative Approach”. Books written under the Academic Approach include the Templar histories written by Malcolm Barber and Stephen Howarth. These books are said to follow historic or academic guidelines, and are based upon established factual material and writings. The Popular or Alternative Approach is also described as being speculative. It includes books written by Michael Baigent et al., Lawrence Gardner and Andrew Sinclair. Having read a number of books by the authors in the two categories this reviewer finds little

*Continued on page 53*



## Rosslyn, Continued from page 52

dispute in the Mr. Cooper's categorization. Further, Mr. Cooper then goes on to describe the methods by which the authors in the Popular or Alternative approach distort facts. As with his discussion of the Scottish myths about Free Masonry and the Knights Templar, Mr. Cooper's discussion is well reasoned and thorough.

In order to establish that the Scottish Free Masons were not an outgrowth of the Knights Templar, it was necessary for Mr. Cooper to establish that there is little possibility, if any, that the Templars sailed from New Rochelle to Scotland just prior to their arrest on October 13, 1307. He does this very effectively. Mr. Cooper is clearly a student of Medieval Scottish history. With this knowledge and hundreds of references, many of the primary references or chronicles, he demonstrates how improbable it would be for the Templars to have sailed to Argyle.

Mr. Cooper points out how unlikely it would be that the Templars hid between their arrival in 1307 and their sudden appearance with white tunics emblazoned with Templar crosses at the Battle of Bannockburn. They could not of hid because the Pope had called for their arrest by December of 1307 and many of the Scots were devout Catholics. Others were Bruce's enemies. Either of these group would have announce their presence and called for their arrest. In addition, Mr. Cooper specifically addresses the points set forth by Baigent and Leigh that many have come to rely on in The Temple and the Lodge regarding the grave slabs at Kilmartin, and the cross Kilmory in southern Argyle. Mr. Cooper points how the arguments of Baigent and Leigh that these are Templar artifacts are superficial and inconsistent with the customs and practices of the times.

In terms of the continuation of the Knights Templar beyond Bannockburn Mr. Cooper specifically addresses the tunic with a Templar cross allegedly found on Bonnie Dundee after the Battle of Killcrankie by examining the myth's original source. His conclusion effectively discredits it.

Regarding Rosslyn Chapel, Mr. Cooper establishes that it has no relation to Free Masons or the



*An interesting carving on the roof at Rosslyn.*

Knights Templar. The Chapel was built by William St. Clair for two specific purposes:

1. The saying of prayers for the souls of the family (past and present)
2. A permanent place of burial for members of the family.

For several hundred years these continued to be the sole purposes for Rosslyn Chapel. Mr. Cooper describes in detail, and with supporting sources, the fact that there is no treasure, sacred papers, Holy Grail, or Arc of the Covenant in the vault under Rosslyn Chapel.

Mr. Cooper also describes how it was impossible for William St. Clair to be invested as a Free Mason Grand Master in 1446. At that time there were no Free Masons, only stone masons. And there is no record of such investiture or any continuing record. William St. Clair did become the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1736. But even this was done with a little chicanery.

*Continued con page 54*





*Up among the scaffolding over the roof of Rosslyn Chapel where there are puzzles in stone everywhere and symbolic carvings covering every inch of the building.*

### **Rosslyn, Continued from page 53**

The book is a “must-read” for anyone who wants to take a realistic look at the myths that surround the Knights Templar in Scotland. After you have finished the book, you must read Archie McKerracher’s *Bruce’s Secret Weapon*, *The Scots Magazine*, June 1991, which can be found on Google and downloaded. Mr. Cooper is an excellent historian. But his books fail to acknowledge the existence of circumstantial evidence and the application of the analysis of collateral facts. For example, there have been three non-invasive explorations of the Rosslyn Chapel vaults by radar and ultrasound.

His conclusion is that these tests have been “inconclusive.” Mr. Cooper overlooks or disregards the fact that there might be evidence of something in the

vaults other than caskets. This is because Mr. Cooper looks only at existing evidence and criticizes those who draw conclusions from the absence of facts. Basically, his is correct. But there is one area where his argument fails. That is where no fact exists where one would be expected. This does not prove the fact, but it creates an inference. In the context of “Bruce’s Secret Weapon” there are a number of questions that are not answered in Mr. Cooper’s book. But then the article is based on inferences not hard fact.

Because much of the book primarily deals with the subject of Free Masons, the book is “fast read” for any who are not Masons and skim these pages and chapters. For anyone interested in the history of the Knights Templar and/or the Free Masons in Scotland, the book is essential. ●



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# Mary Queen of Scots to be portrayed by Scarlett Johansson in new movie

Scarlett Johansson, whose screen credits include “Lost in Translation” and “Match Point,” will star as Mary, Queen of Scots, in a new historical film production.

The deal was announced at the Cannes Film Festival by Relativity Media, a production company.

Mary, a Roman Catholic, ruled Scotland from

1542 to 1567. She was beheaded at age 44 on orders of her cousin, Queen Elizabeth I.

The film will be directed by James Curran (“The Painted Veil”) and written by Jimmy McGovern British TV crime drama “Cracker.”

Johansson, 22, has also starred in “The Girl With a Pearl Earring” and “The Black Dahlia.”

*With thanks to David Byrne of Clan Buchanan.*



*Clan MacTavish  
at Loch Norman  
Highland Games  
◀ near ▶  
Huntersville, NC  
April 21, 2007*

## An invitation for all MacRaes!

Hello MacRaes! The Greenville Scottish Games are coming up June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. We’re looking forward to seeing many MacRaes there. Janet and I enjoyed hosting the Clan MacRae tent at the games in 2006 and will be there in 2007. Stop by to visit a while.

The parade begins downtown at 6:00 p.m. on Friday the 8<sup>th</sup>. If you come in your kilt, you can march with us! You will need to be in place with other members of the clan about 5:15. Some free tickets to the games field for Saturday will be given away at the parade—you may be lucky enough to get one.

Saturday at lunchtime we plan to picnic to-



### *MacRae’s on parade at Grandfather Mountain*

gether at the clan tent. If it is convenient for you to bring something to share, that would be great; if not, plan to eat with us anyway.

Remember it will probably be sunny and warm. Dress appropriately.

We hope to see you all there! Janet and Leon Folsom, (404) 255-3632



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## Highland Games and Gatherings you may wish to attend

### **Pleasanton Scottish Highland Gathering and Games**

September 1, 2, 2007  
Pleasanton, CA  
<http://www.caledonian.org>

### **Loch Lomond Highland Games**

October 6, 2007  
Ben Lomond, CA  
<http://www.lochlomondceltic.org>

### **Grandfather Mountain Highland Games**

July 12-15, 2007  
Linville, NC  
<http://www.gmhg.org>

### **Skagit Valley Games & Highland Festival**

July 14, 15, 2007  
Mt. Vernon, WA  
<http://www.celticarts.org>

### **Portland Scottish Highland Games**

July 20-21, 2007  
Gresham, OR  
<http://www.phga.org>

### **Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games and Clan Gathering**

July 27-29, 2007  
Enumclaw, WA  
<http://www.sshga.org>

### **St. Andrews Society of Detroit**

158th Annual Highland Games & Ceilidh  
August 3 and August 4, 2007  
Greenmead Historical Park, Livonia, MI  
<http://www.highlandgames.com>

### **Dandridge Scots-Irish**

#### **Heritage & Music Festival**

22 September 2007  
Dandridge, TN  
<http://www.MainStreetDandridge.com/festival.htm>

### **Mint Hill Highland Games**

March 28, 2008  
Mint Hill, NC 29227  
[wkenmc@bellsouth.net](mailto:wkenmc@bellsouth.net)

**Send in your games information to  
be listed here FREE! [bethscribble@aol.com](mailto:bethscribble@aol.com)**

## About our very special advertisers...

The first two issues of *Beth's Newfangled Family Tree* will be "shake down" issues where I figure out what works and what doesn't work so well. So, I couldn't very well charge for advertising. The advertisers you see represented here are very special folks who have been kind to me over the past few years...and their ads are a small, eensie teensie way of thanking them for their friendship.

After the first two issues, I will be calling on potential advertisers mostly in the Scottish and genealogical and book and history fields.

Because of the specialized nature of these ads, they are as attractive to our readers as are our editorial information. It's hard to find an ad for a kiltmaker in your local newspaper...and you seldom see a Highland Games in another part of the country on your local TV station or books concerning genealogy advertised locally, etc.

Our ad rates will be very reasonable. If you like what you see in our Internet pages, please contact me by email ([bethscribble@aol.com](mailto:bethscribble@aol.com)) or you may call my cellphone at 864-903-1392.

In the meantime, if you do talk to any of our advertisers or communicate with them, please tell them "thank you" for helping bring back a publication that I hope will become valuable to its readers for its information and for its timely news concerning things of interest to us all.

Thank YOU for reading *Beth's Newfangled Family Tree*!



# St. Andrew's Society of Atlanta's Kirkin' O' the Tartan held in February

Alpharetta Presbyterian Church Alpharetta, Georgia \* February 18, 2007

I was asked by Bill Harris, former president of the society, to deliver the *Prayer of Remembrance* for our kirkin' service. It is my pleasure to share the 2007 prayer with our readers.

There was a large contingency of St. Andrew's members who participated in the service dressed in their clan tartans.

The minister, Dr. Joel Alvis, spoke eloquently about Scots settling in North Carolina around the Cape Fear River in what is now Cumberland and Bladen Counties.

Piper John Recknagel piped flag bearers in and out of the service. A reception for our society and church members was held in the fellowship hall immediately following the service. Simply put, the kirkin' was a time of happiness!



(l-r) Richard Graham, Bill Harris, Kate Graham, Piper John Recknagel, Sue Wallace, Don Malcolm, Dr. Joel Alvis (Minister), Jeff Harbin (Minister of Music) and Organist Doug Gray. Frank R. Shaw.

## 2007 Prayer of Remembrance

O Lord, With grateful hearts we come to Thee  
Thankful for your presence,  
Reminded of your love,  
Conscious of your guiding hand.  
Comfort us with good thoughts  
Of those Scottish men and women  
Who left behind families and friends to  
find new life in a strange wilderness.  
Help us in these modern times  
To be as our ancestors were in days of yore,  
mindful of your love, grateful for  
your protection, full of love for all  
mankind, not just Scots or Presbyterians.  
Guide us as you guided our ancestors  
Who craved out a living with their bare hands,  
Who read your holy word by candle light,  
Who bowed and prayed by their hearth and bed,  
Seeking your help, searching for your healing.  
Give us the vision our Scottish forefathers had  
To be men and women of God,  
Proud to salute our saltire,  
Proud to wear our plaid,  
Proud to hoist our tartan.

We are thankful for these symbols  
of our Scottishness.  
Help us to realize that prayer is as  
natural as breathing,  
allowing us to pray at home, on the job,  
or when alone,  
Knowing that prayer is the oxygen of  
our spiritual lives  
Be with us, O Lord,  
Protect us from whatever dreams  
we are pursuing  
Or whatever demons we are fleeing,  
And we thank you for not treating us  
as we deserve.  
Forgive us for trying to make you  
into our own likeness;  
And help us to realize you are capable  
of re-hanging the moon and stars in  
the darkest midnight of our lives,  
In the Strong Name of Christ we pray,  
*Amen.*

**Frank R. Shaw**

February 18, 2007, Alpharetta Presbyterian Church

# 35TH ANNIVERSARY 2007

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## Clan Pollock AGM at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games

An important year for Clan Pollock as we have elections of the Clan President and Vice-President!

The Grandfather Mountain Highland Games are July 12-15, 2007 Please try to attend and help elect our new leaders! If you are willing to run for any office, please contact Clara Ann at: [apollockis@comcast.net](mailto:apollockis@comcast.net)

Information on the Games: [www.gmhg.org](http://www.gmhg.org) Meeting will be held at the: Woodlands Barbecue on July 14th. Menu Items should be no more than \$10 per person. Please contact Ben Stone if you can attend so we can get a head count for the meeting! Current Outgoing Officers

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A.D. Pollock Jr. 300 Hillwood Blvd. Nashville, TN 37205 (615)356-2016 or email [apollockis@comcast.net](mailto:apollockis@comcast.net)

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Harry B. Stone, III 110 Westerly Rd., New Bern, NC 28560 (252) 638-8418 or email [bstone3@ec.rr.com](mailto:bstone3@ec.rr.com)

## Programmes in Scotland invite you...

St. Ninian and the Earliest Christianity in Scotland will be presented by The Friends of the Whithorn Trust to be held at Whithorn on 15, 16 September 2007.

In 2007, The Friends of the Whithorn Trust plan to celebrate the 21st founding of the Trust by holding a weeklong event in place of the annual Whithorn Lecture. The event will consist of a day of lectures on Saturday, 15 September and an excursion on Sunday, 16th September to sites of the Late Iron Age and Early Christian periods in Wigtownshire, including a tour of the exhibition opened by Historic Scotland in 2005 which presents and interprets the Early Christian stones, originally founded in 1908, in the



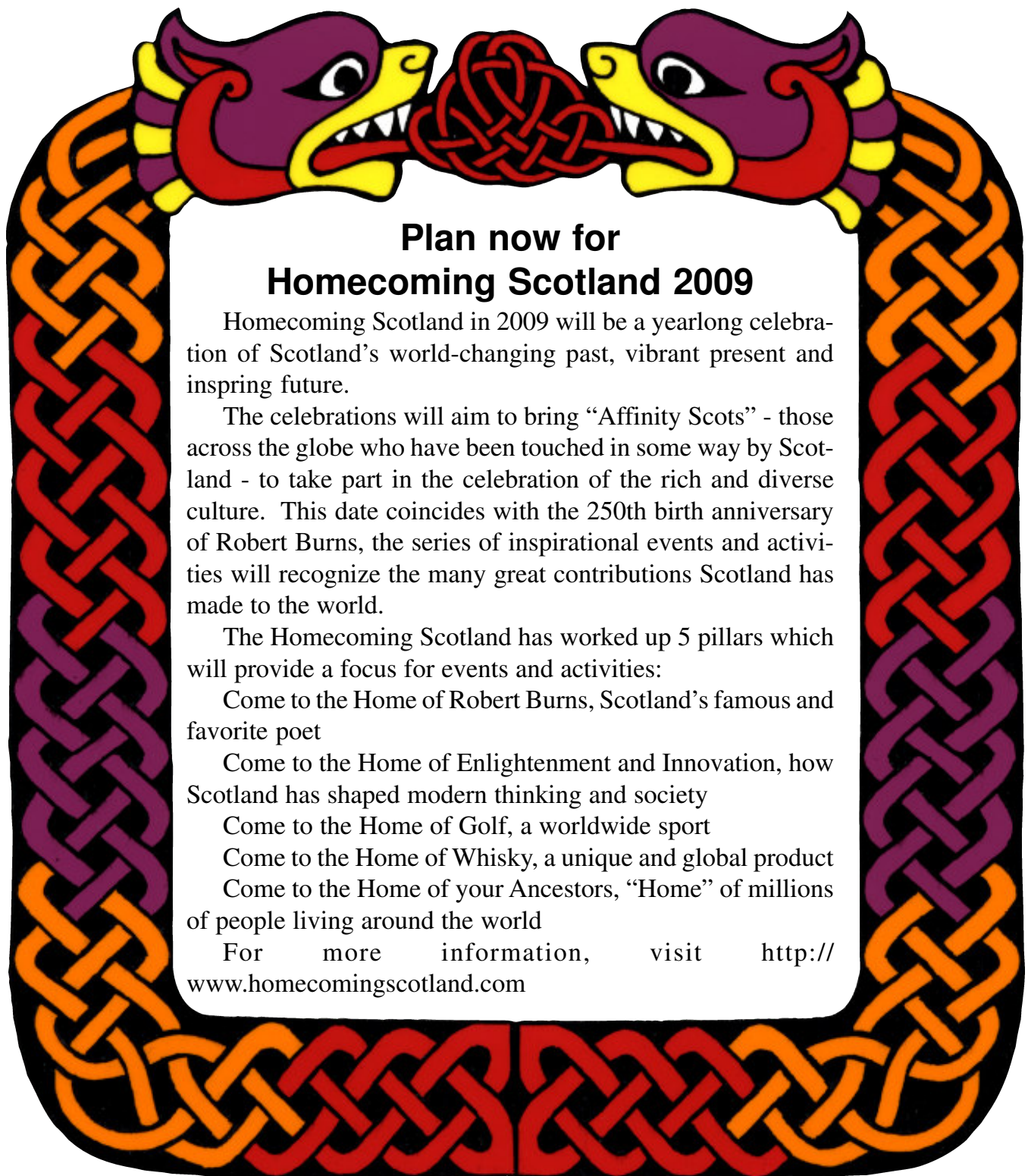
*Clan Pollock on parade at Grandfather Mountain 2005.*



Museum. The seminar will explore the evidence for Christianity in Galloway in the fifth century AD, and the background to its introduction, traditionally attributed to the missionary role of St. Ninian. Speakers are Dave Cowley, Katherine Forsyth, Mike McCarthy, Catherine Swift, Ian Wood and Jonathan Wooding, under the Chairmanship of Professor Ted Cowan and Peter Hill.

Enquiries about this event and applications for tickets and accommodation addresses, should be sent to The Friends of the Whithorn Trust, c/o Headland Archaeology, 13 Jane Street, Edinburgh, EH6 5HE. Call 0131 467 7705. Email [offic@headlandarchaeology.com](mailto:offic@headlandarchaeology.com)

With thanks to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland *Newsletter*.



## **Plan now for Homecoming Scotland 2009**

Homecoming Scotland in 2009 will be a yearlong celebration of Scotland's world-changing past, vibrant present and inspiring future.

The celebrations will aim to bring "Affinity Scots" - those across the globe who have been touched in some way by Scotland - to take part in the celebration of the rich and diverse culture. This date coincides with the 250th birth anniversary of Robert Burns, the series of inspirational events and activities will recognize the many great contributions Scotland has made to the world.

The Homecoming Scotland has worked up 5 pillars which will provide a focus for events and activities:

Come to the Home of Robert Burns, Scotland's famous and favorite poet

Come to the Home of Enlightenment and Innovation, how Scotland has shaped modern thinking and society

Come to the Home of Golf, a worldwide sport

Come to the Home of Whisky, a unique and global product

Come to the Home of your Ancestors, "Home" of millions of people living around the world

For more information, visit <http://www.homecomingscotland.com>

## **Games cancelled here & there**

It is reported that the Dixon Scottish Highland Games have been cancelled.

Games lost in the Southeast include Culloden, and The Alabama Games in Madison, AL .

Please let us know about games that are upcoming or games that have been cancelled.

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## Clan Gatherings at home in Scotland

Just some of the major clan gatherings taking place this summer in Scotland include:

Clan Chisholm at Inverness, July 19-21

Clan Grant Rally at Nethy Bridge, 11 August

Clan Mclean, Isle of Mull, June 19-23

Stewart Society, Oban, September 15-17

The Clan Maclean Association's 2007 International Gathering is expected to bring 400-500 Macleans and their friends and relatives to Mull during the gathering week. The majority of them will be coming from the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The gathering will include many Septs of the clan including Beaton, MacBeth, MacCormich, MacFadyen, MacGilvra, MacVey, Rankine and others.

The Gathering reception Centre will be based in Tobermory, but visits to different parts of Mull and Iona are being arranged. Weather permitting, it is hoped to visit Staffa and the Treshnish Isles.

On Friday, June 22, it is planned to unveil a plaque at Kilninian to commemorate General Allan Maclean, Torloisk (1725-1796) the Hero of Quebec,



who many people consider to have been the savior of modern day Canada as a separate country.

The main focus of the Maclean gathering will be the Clan Gathering at Duart Castle on Saturday, 23 June.

If you would like more information, please visit <http://www.clan-maclean.org/>

**The Memorial Service for  
the late Chief John MacLeod of MacLeod  
will take place on the 16th of June 2007  
at Dunvegan Parish Church  
11:00 AM Service At St. Mary's Church, Dunvegan  
12:30 PM Kilmuir to unveil the headstone  
7:30 PM Buffet Dinner to be served in the castle  
All Welcome**

With thanks to *The Clan MacLeod Magazine*, William C. MacLeod, USA President. 1088 Onwentsia Court, Napierville, IL 60563. Email: bmacskye@aol.com



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## Jacksonville, FL Genealogical Society sets June meeting

The Jacksonville Genealogical Society will hold their monthly meeting Saturday, June 16, 2007, at 1:30 p.m., at the Webb-Wesconnett Library, 6887 103rd Street, Jacksonville, FL.

We are delighted to have as our guest speaker, Melody K. Porter, a computer software business analyst and genealogy researcher for 15 years. She will be presenting information on research sites in Georgia and elsewhere.

For additional information please contact Mary Chauncey at (904) 781-9300.

*Standing up to my knees in water, I took this photo at Jacksonville Beach several years ago. It's interesting to note that before Hurricane Katrina, these pilings were at least ten feet tall. For years, they were the markers I used to know when I had geezette loped a mile in one direction...The day of this picture, I could walk up to them and look DOWN on their tops.*

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## Gringos?

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In February of 1836, the Mexican army under General Santa Ana started its 13 day siege of the Alamo, which ultimately ended with the slaughter of most of the occupants and fired in the hearts of all those in the Texas territory the battle cry for independence, "Remember the Alamo!"

Amazingly, there is a most Scottish connection to The Alamo, for it was there that the slang Mexican word for an American - "Gringo" was born. The defenders of the Alamo included 80 Scottish mercenaries in their ranks. The Mexican army, in their siege of this fort, heard the Scots singing *Green Grow the Rashes O*, their marching song. From this emerged the garbled nickname for Americans, "Gringo."

With thanks to *The Dunrobin Piper*, from the Clan Sutherland Society of North America. You may contact Charles V. Cheney, Jr., president, at 3611 Kelway Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28210 or email [cvcheney@bellsouth.net](mailto:cvcheney@bellsouth.net) for more information on Clan Sutherland.

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## Beware! Bagpipe Joke Ahead.

Q: If you were lost in the woods, who would you trust for directions, an in-tune bagpipe player, an out of tune bagpipe player or Santa Claus?;

A: The out of tune bagpipe player. The other two indicate you have been hallucinating.

With dubious thanks to the Clan Hamilton Society and *An Darach* - their newsletter. Hamiltons, contact Sheri Lambert, 910 E. Lorraine Ave., Addison, IL 60101. You might wish to email [secretary@clanhamilton.org](mailto:secretary@clanhamilton.org)





## Flowers of the Forest

Dr. Stephen John Hadfiled, 1908 - 2007. Dr. Hadfiled was a General Practitioner living at Beer in Devon. Married to Jean MacDougall, the second daughter of Col. Alexander MacDougall of MacDougall, the 29th Chief and his wife Colina. During the Second World War he served as an administrative Medical Officer with the R.A.F. and the family moved often around southern England with many visits to Dunollie.

He, himself, was half a MacDougall and will be remembered by the many Clan MacDougall folk visiting Dunollie. Dr. Hadfiled, along with his wife, Jean, and her sister, Hope, acted as the hospitality of Dunollie, the clan's ancestral home. Dr. Hadfiled was preceded in death by both these ladies.

Two daughters survive him, Morag (Richard Morley) MacDougall of MacDougall, 31st and present Chief of MacDougall and Sheana Margaret (Anna) Hadfiled, and two grandchildren, Robin Hamish MacDougall and Fiona Morley.

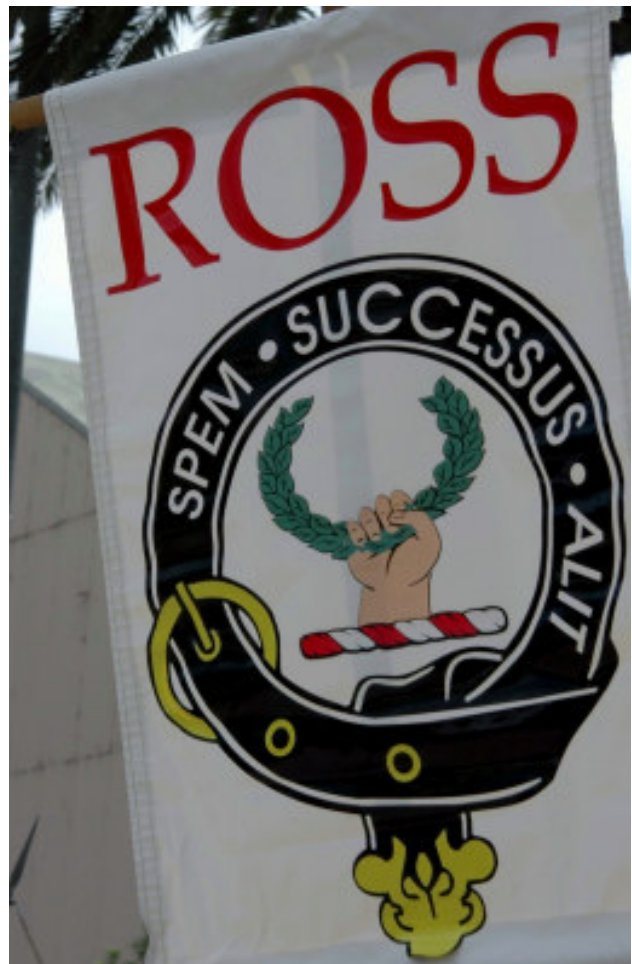
Clan MacDougall of North America sends sincere condolences to the Chief and her family. Representing the last of his generation, he will be sorely missed.

## Interesting to know about Clan Ross!

The current Chief of Clan Ross is David Ross of Ross and Shandwick, a descendant in the direct male line of Mac an t'sagirt, who was Earl of Ross more than seven and a half centuries ago. The Chief's grandfather, Sir Ronald Ross of Shandwick, was a pioneer of modern medicine who discovered the cause of malaria. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1902.

With thanks to the Clan Ross Association of the United States, Inc. Contact them at <http://www.clanrossassociation.crg>

*Please share your news  
and information with  
**Beth's Newfangled Family Tree!**  
Just email  
[bethscribble@aol.com](mailto:bethscribble@aol.com)*



# Fonn's Duthchas: Land and Legacy

A major touring exhibition celebrating aspects of Highland Cultural life has been launched as part of Highland 2007 celebrations.

Fonn's Duthchas: Land and Legacy reflects the roots, values and cultural heritage of the people of the Scottish Highlands, and includes iconic objects from the national collections of the National Library of Scotland, National Museums of Scotland and the National Galleries of Scotland.

Items on display will include an account of the Battle of Culloden in a Jacobite journal written on playing cards, and the Order for the Massacre of Glencoe in 1692.

You'll be able to see the exhibit in Scotland at Edinburgh at the National Museum of Scotland 29 June until 2 September and 21 September until 1 December at the Stornoway Museum nan Eilean.



*Scottish woods taken a few years ago. I loved this area as it was easy to imagine I had traveled back in time. It was so quiet...nothing but birds and the rustlings of the trees and my own footsteps and breathing. A time or two I thought I heard the sound of the pipes...and a time or two I thought maybe I had seen the flashing of a tartan...bethie*



# Did Columbus know? You bet'cha!

*The late Pete Cummings*

*I must add a small bit of background on this article. It was my great pleasure to work with my friend, Pete Cummings, in 1988-1989 not too very long before his untimely death, on publicity for events celebrating 600th anniversary of The Westford Knight and Prince Henry Sinclair's visit to The New world almost 100 years before Christopher Columbus sailed to San Salvadore. This is the article that Pete wrote then - updated by Ian Brown since - which explains why Christopher Columbus knew exactly where he was going. I do have permission from Clan Sinclair President, Mel Sinclair, to publish this article. bethie*

There are three reasons to conclude that before Columbus set sail for America in 1492, he was well aware of the exploration achievements of a Scotsman by the name of Sinclair. He also is likely to have known about and used Sinclair's Zeno Maps.

**Reason #1:** While it was not a perfect bloodline, there IS a true line of descent through family members which connects Prince Henry Sinclair to Christopher Columbus. Within the relationship it could be reasonably expected for noteworthy family traditions such as voyages of mapping and exploration to North America to be passed from one generation to the next.

When he was dreaming of making a voyage, Columbus was very likely holding in his hands the Zeno Map, which had guided Sinclair on his voyage ninety years earlier!

His in-laws had surely passed along the family story of Prince Henry's transatlantic voyage ninety years earlier. Here are the seven people who form the connection between Columbus and Sinclair: 1. **Prince Henry Sinclair** (born ca 1345) had a daughter named: 2. **Elizabeth Sinclair** (born ca 1370). Her son was: 3. **John Escorcias Drummond** (born ca 1402). He was married to: 4. **Dona Guimar de Lordella** (born ca 1400) whose first husband was: 5. **Triston Vas Teircira, Jr.**, (born ca 1450). His aunt was: 6. **Guimar Teixeira** (born ca 1440). Her husband was: 7. **Bartholomew Perestrello** (born ca 1440). He was the brother of: 8. **Felipa Perestrello** (born ca 1450) who was married to 9. **Christopher Columbus** (born ca 1447).

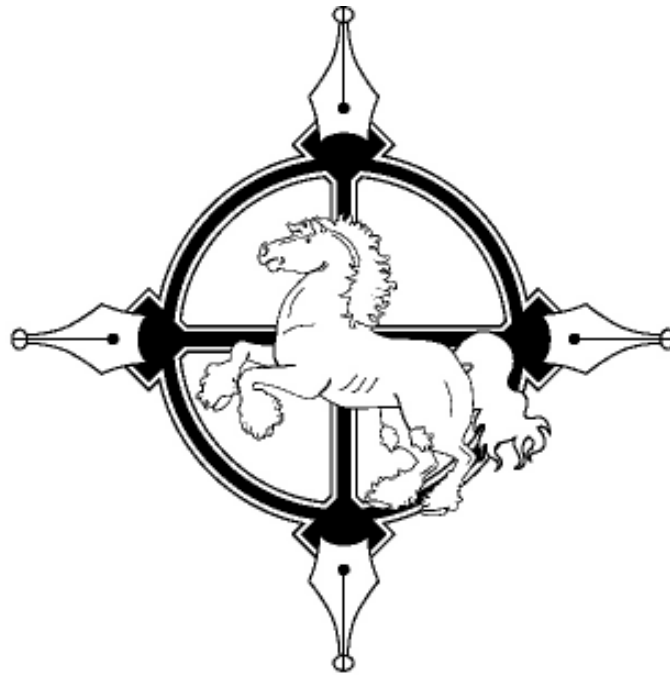
**Reason #2:** The Madeira Islands were discov-

ered and explored ca 1419 by Bartholomew Peristrello (born ca 1390), accompanied by John Goncalves Zarco (born ca 1390). Each of these men settled in Madeira and raised their families there. They were a close-knit community, which intermarried to a considerable extent. Members of these families are listed above in the family line relationship between Columbus and Sinclair. *Legends of Prince Henry's daring exploration in the years of 1398-1399 surely would have been discussed within this small community of explorers.*

**Reason #3:** *Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand had heard of Prince Henry Sinclair*, because of somewhat similar family relationships. Their great grandfather's grand niece, Dona Catharina Vases Pereira (born ca 1460) was Prince Henry's great grandson's wife. Family legends generally pass one from generation to the next, especially if the subject is as significant as exploring the New World.

Certainly the Zeno Maps, created by the Zeno brothers, Antonio and Nicolo, under Prince Henry's direction, must have been known by Isabella and Ferdinand. These maps were used for 300 years because they were known to be the most accurate available. If Columbus had somehow not been aware of Prince Henry's maps, then the *King and Queen would have given him a copy of the map* when they chartered the Columbus Expedition which took place in 1492.

With thanks to Mel Sinclair, president of the Clan Sinclair. With thanks also to *Yours Aye*, the newsletter of the Clan Sinclair Association, Inc., USA. Contact CSAUSA, 89 Sentry Way, Merrimack, NH 03054. Visit <http://www.clansinclairusa.org>.



the families and friends of  
Beth Gay and Tom Freeman  
invite you to the celebration of an  
ancient Celtic handfasting ceremony  
at forty-five minutes past noon  
on Saturday, June 2, 2007  
at the Cairn  
during the Glasgow Highland Games.

—◆—  
please come and share our happiness.  
refreshments will be served.