



Volume 2, Number 4 Beth's Newfangled Family Tree Section B April 2008

## Clan Thompson Society formed!

We are a group from the US, Canada, Scotland and Australia having the patronymic surname of THOM(P)SON working to have Clan Thom(p)son recognize in accordance with the procedures established by Lyon Court, Edinburgh. All variations of the Thompson name are included, although the most common form, Thompson, is used for simplicity.

Adapted from Clan Recognition and the Derbhfine by J. Duncan of Sketraw:

In order for the Clan Thompson Society to have a chief and clan officially recognised by The Court of the Lord Lyon, Scotland there are certain criteria that we need to meet;

a.) Find a Thom(p)son with a proven genealogical paper chase back to an unknown chief - possibly "Thomson of that Ilk" registered in the Workman's Manuscript 1565-66, but he is not listed in the Ordinary of Arms. This seems a remote possibility.

b.) Create a derbhfine, which would be the most likely scenario. A Derbhfine is a meeting of 8 or more Scottish Thompson armigers (a person who has a Grant of a Coat of Arms) who would in the first instance elect a Commander of the Clan. This



Commander after a period of time would then be considered by the Lord Lyon to be Chief of the Clan. See Lyon Court Guidelines for the holding of a derbhfine meeting for more information.

c.) Clan Roll-Call and Society Membership. The 'Clan Roll-Call' are those Thompsons and spelling variants who support the creation of an independent clan with their own clan chief. 'Clan Society Membership' are those members who support the Society financially, become officers of the Society, promote the Society Nationally and Internationally and generally work towards the goals laid

*Continued on page 2*

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The Queen has appointed Mr. W. David H. Sellar,  
Edinburgh lawyer and historian,  
as the new Lord Lyon King of Arms

*See article page 17*

**Clan Thompson, continued from page 1**

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When a grant, or matriculation, of Arms is obtained, an illuminated parchment, narrating the pedigree as proved, is supplied to the Petitioner, and a duplicate is recorded in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland.

To petition for a Scottish Coat of Arms you do not need to be domiciled in Scotland but you have to come under the Court of the Lord Lyon's jurisdiction; please see Acquisition of Grant and Matriculation of Scottish Arms for non British Subjects.

The Clan Thompson Society can assist members with information on the process of petitioning for a grant of arms, arms design and the necessary documentation required for presentation of the petition to Lord Lyon King of Arms for his consideration. Help in the process can be obtained directly by contacting The Society of Scottish Armigers (North America), The Heraldry Society of Scotland or contacting the Court of the Lord Lyon direct by letter or phone.

**Contact the new Clan Thompson**  
**[admin@clanthompson.org](mailto:admin@clanthompson.org) for America**

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**Australia: [US@clanthompson.org](mailto:US@clanthompson.org)**

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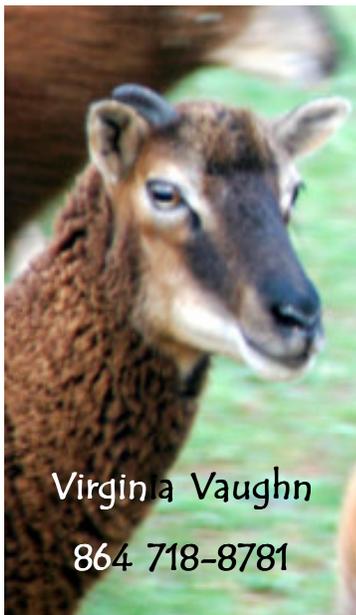
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# History of Orders of Chivalry: a Survey

**Ed Ries:** A presentation to Commandery of Athlit Knights Templars, San Diego, California

*Continued from the March 2008 issue*

After the crusaders lost at Acre in 1291, the Teutonic Order moved its headquarters to Venice, a long-time ally. In 1309, the Order moved again, this time to Marienburg in Prussia. Here the Order had subdued the pagan inhabitants and established a theocratic form of government. The position of the knights in the Baltic region had been strengthened in 1237 when a knightly order in Livonia, the Brothers of the Sword (Schwertbr(der), joined the Teutonic Order. The history of the German knights in Prussia and Livonia is one of almost perpetual revolts, uprisings, raids, conquests, victories, and defeats. Many secular knights from western Europe (e.g., Chaucer's knight in the *Canterbury Tales*) would go to the Baltic to help the Order in "crusading activities" for a season or more. The Grand Master's prizes and feasting for especially heroic knights became legendary and reminds one of various aspects of King Arthur's Knights of the Round Table.

During the fourteenth century, dozens of towns and about 2000 villages were created in Prussia by the Order. The Order was successful in trade. For example, as a Hanseatic League participant, it provided western Europe with some of its cheapest grain. The nations of Poland and Lithuania, perennial enemies of the Order, became stronger and stronger in the late fourteenth and early fifteenth centuries. In 1410 at Tannenberg, the Order was crushed in a battle against a coalition led by these powers. The result was a bankrupting of the Order and significant reduction in its military and political capabilities. In 1467, the whole of western Prussia was ceded to Poland and

the eastern part acknowledged the suzerainty of the king of Poland.

Martin Luther's (1483-1546) Reformation affected the Teutonic Order significantly. In 1525, Grand Master Albrecht von Brandenburg converted to the Lutheran faith. He then was enfeoffed by the Polish king as Duke of Prussia. As a medieval, crusading entity, the German Order essentially ended at this time.

In 1526, the Teutonic Order master of the German lands became the "Administrator of the Grandmastery in Prussia and Master in German and Romance Countries." Mergentheim became the main seat of the Order. There was a great deal of confusion in Germany in the aftermath of the Reformation, its resulting wars, and the political changes. The bailiwicks of Saxony, Messe, and Th(ringia) became Protestant until Napoleonic times. The office of Landkomtur alternated among Lutheran, Reformed, and Catholic leaders in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The



bailiwick of Utrecht was Calvinist until modern times. A new rule was adopted in 1606 in an attempt to accommodate the changes in the Order.

In European affairs, from time to time, the Order still participated militarily. Some 1000 troops were raised to help the Austrians against the Turks. After 1696, there was a regiment of the "Grand and German Master." But the numbers and wealth of the Order dwindled. Little other military activity is recorded.

*Continued on page 6*

## Hike the Clackmannanshire Tower Trail in Scotland!

There are several historic towers in Clackmannanshire - near Stirling - built in the 1300s and 1400s by aristocrats who needed to be near the royal courts in Stirling. The towers offered a way for those folks to show off their wealth and status and were also a secure place for them to live when they had business nearby.

Recently, "The Clackmannanshire Tower Trail" has been opened. Hikers may see Castle Campbell, Clackmannan Tower, Alloa Tower, Sauchie Tower and Menstrie Castle.

If you would like more information about both the trail and its towers, visit <<http://www.clacksweb.org.uk/visiting/towertrail>> You may also phone 01259 216 913.



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## *Limited Edition National Tartan Day Pin*

Caberdancer Graphic Design, founding supporters of the Mighty Clan MacBubba, proudly announce the fourth in a continuing series of limited edition collectible pins commemorating National Tartan Day.

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As the anticlerical French government expanded its political control in the 1790's, the Order lost its commanderies in Belgium and those west of the Rhine (1797). Many east of the Rhine were lost in 1805. In 1809, Napoleon dissolved the Order in all countries under his dominion, leaving only the properties in the Austrian Empire. Even in Austria, the Order had to exist secretly for a number of years until 1839 when Austrian Emperor Ferdinand I reconstituted the Order as the Order of the Teutonic Knights (Deutscher Ritterorden). The mission fulfilled by the Order was mainly the caring for wounded soldiers. In 1866, the "Honorable Knights of the Teutonic Order" was founded. Knights were required to provide annual contributions for hospitals. The Marianer des Deutschen Ordens, for women, was created in 1871. In 1914, some 1,500 sponsors from the Austrian nobility supported the caregiving efforts of the Order. During World War I, the Order took care of about 3,000 wounded soldiers in their facilities.

In 1923, masters of the Order were allowed to come from among the clerics rather than the "knighthood" for the first time. Under National Socialist rule, the Order was dissolved in Austria in 1938 and Czechoslovakia in 1939. The leaders of the Third Reich abused the history of the Teutonic Order. After World War II, the Order began anew in Germany. Its possessions in Austria were returned. In Italy, the Order had changed little. A great deal of support for the caretaking and missionary Order has been found in Germany, Austria, Italy, Belgium, and even in North and Central America. The Order's headquarters, treasury, and archives are now located in Vienna, Austria.

## Spanish Military Orders

The crusade to drive the Moors from Spain, four hundred years of almost constant warfare interspersed with skirmishes and short periods of armed peace, was not only the longest of all European wars but the only crusade to achieve its objective. The role played by the knights of the military orders was a crucial one; their monastic structure, harsh discipline and devotion of the knights to the cause of liberating their nation from the invader gave them an unmatched strength of purpose. By granting key strategic fortresses to the knights, the Iberian Kings of Castille, Aragón, León and Portugal were able to establish border outposts in newly conquered territories whose boundaries were continually pushing back areas controlled by the Moors. With success of the Reconquista and the expulsion of the Moors, the four Orders lost their independence from secular authorities when they were put under "perpetual administration" of the Spanish Crown. They then found a new role as an elite corps of the nobility, maintaining their castles and estates as commanderies to provide incomes for those who distinguished themselves in the service of the Monarch. With the loss of their estates in the nineteenth century, their role became purely honorary and the Republic attempted to suppress them entirely, although this was contrary to Canon Law under which they were regulated as Religious-Military Orders founded by Papal Bull. Restored



Continued on page 7

under the present monarchy, they are maintained as exclusively Catholic, Noble orders dependent on the Crown.

They had their origin in the small, local military confraternities founded for self-protection by members of the knightly class. The Moors had conquered almost all of the Iberian peninsular within five years of invading in the year 711 AD. Christians, advancing gradually southwards, fortifying small towns in which they settled, steadily regained their lost territories. By the end of the eleventh century northern Spain was divided small states, León, Castille, Navarre, Aragón, Galicia and Portugal, frequently at odds with each other but united by their religion and continual concern over a revived threat from Moorish states to the south.

Although the Moors were relatively tolerant of religious minorities living within their dominions, indeed there was considerable intermarriage between the different communities, Christian, Jewish and Moor, they saw expanding Christian communities on their borders as ready victims for plunder. The Moorish Kingdom based at Córdoba was divided by factionalism and its break-up into smaller taifas (city states) gave the Christian confraternities their chance to consolidate power and firmly establish themselves in the territories they had captured during two centuries of protracted struggle. By the end of the eleventh century, the Christian Kingdoms enjoyed an uneasy truce with the Moors, interspersed with hostilities, but this was disrupted by the appearance of a fanatic Berber sect, the Almohads, in the early twelfth century.



The Almohads, led by Abd al-Moumin, invaded Andalusia in 1147, uniting the Moorish principalities under their rule and menacing the Christian states. Spanish Christians were forced to put aside their internal conflicts and, with help of the Templars, who had established themselves in a number of border fortresses, united to defeat this new threat to their security. The example of the Templars, a highly disciplined military confraternity dedicated exclusively to the defense of the

Church, proved to be the model that would be followed by Spanish Orders. Some of the original defensive fraternities formed in the outlying towns provided the nucleus for the Orders of Chivalry, while others, more modest, later became Maestranzas or Noble Associations, some of which survived to the present day. The Templars themselves were in gradual retreat in Spain as the local magnates preferred to endow the newly former military Orders rather than further add to the strength of the threateningly powerful Templar Order.

The first Order to be founded, but second to receive Papal approval, was the Order of Calatrava. The earlier recognition, however, granted to the Order of Santiago by the Holy See, gave the latter precedence before the other three. Santiago was also far more extensively endowed than the other Orders. Once the mission of driving the Moors from Spain was accomplished, the four Orders, like the great crusader Orders elsewhere in Europe, were perceived as over-mighty subjects and it became a priority for the Crown to gain control over them - particularly as the not infrequent quarrels

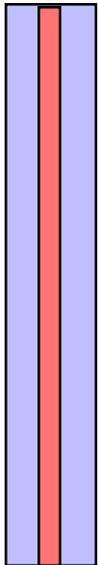
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*Slainte! Scottish-Irish Festival  
Anderson, SC March 8, 2008*





*Slainte!*  
*Scottish-Irish Festival*  
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*Slainte!*  
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## Celebrate Tartan Day with Seaside crew!

The Seaside Highland Games, in cooperation with the St. Andrew's Society of Los Angeles and California State University Northridge (CSUN), is sponsoring an amazing Tartan Day Exhibit in the University's Oviatt Library. You may view the



*Celebrate Tartan Day wat Seaside Highland Games...and celebrate the Games next October.*

*Shown here, The Clan Buchanan Society, Inc., at the 2007 event.*

Exhibit any time between now and April 7 when the display will be struck.

Friday, April 4, there will be a fine Tartan Day

Show and Program on the Quad in front of the Library. University and community leaders will be there and Seaside Athletes will put on demonstrations of Scottish Heavy Athletics and the Granada Hills High School Highlander Marching Band will perform! And...a surprise guest has been invited!!

Then, around 12:30 pm, you are invited to attend a great Buffet Luncheon in the University Club's "Orange Grove Bistro" at the amazingly low price of \$10. Just come and pay at the door (beer & wine are available for an extra charge).

For those who, for various "employment" and scheduling reasons cannot attend on Friday, you may wish to attend a Tartan Day Dinner on Sunday, April 6, Tartan Day DAY at the Tam O'Shanter Inn! This event is being planned by Patricia Tennyson Bell and is already quite well attended BUT she assures us that a few places are available and need to be filled! If you are at all interested in this dinner, please RSVP me ASAP so reservations can be confirmed. This is a must!

CSUN—don't call, just COME! Tam Dinner, please CALL and COME!

Contact John E Lowry, KCTJ, FSA Scot, Chief, Seaside Highland Games, October 10, 11 & 12, 2008, :Seaside Highland Games, 818-645-6092 or 818-886-4968.



*Outside the big  
museum, Boston, MA*



between the rival bodies was a source of dissension at a time when the Crown was struggling to establish its central authority.

The Spanish Kings frequently obtained election of close connections of their families as Masters of the Orders and at Calatrava in 1489, Santiago in 1494 and Alcántara in 1495 the administration of the three Magisteries were ultimately granted to King Ferdinand of Aragón, as Sovereign of Aragón and King-Consort of Castille. Finally, by the Bull Dum intra of Pope Adrian VI dated 4 May 1523, the 'perpetual administration' of the three Orders was transferred to Charles I (Holy Roman Emperor Charles V), King of Spain, and his heirs and successors, with the provision that this dignity could be exercised by a future female Sovereign.

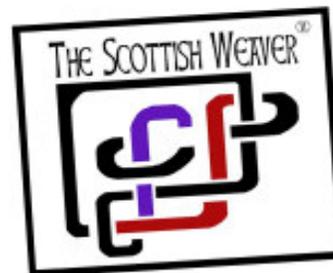
The much smaller Order of Montesa was not perceived as such a threat as the other three and it was not until a Bull of Sixtus V, of 15 March 1587, that its perpetual administration was eventually transferred to the Crown of Aragón. By a further Bull of 22 May 1739 (at the request of Philip V) its council was united with that of the other three Orders. The Orders were administered by a 'Council and Tribunal' appointed in 1523, but each of the four retained their independent structure, their

own statutes, and requirements for noble proofs and ecclesiastical jurisdiction. The exemption from the control of local ordinaries was preserved in the Bull of 1523 and in subsequent Papal dispositions concerning the four Orders, until the first Spanish Republic. By the mid-sixteenth century the Tribunal had authority over two cities, two hundred and twenty small towns and seventy-five villages. Membership of the Council included the Secretary of the Orders, the Treasurer of the Orders (Contador Mayor), the Grand-Usher, three (later four with Montesa) Procurator-Generals, three (later four) fiscals (who inspected noble proofs) and a Treasurer of the Council. The lesser officers of each of the Orders, lawyers, etc were not members of the Council.

*We'll finish this article in the May 2008 issue.*

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# Tourist? Traveler? Touron?

Marti Van Horne, Scots Travel Specialist



As most of you know by now, there will be the largest ever clan gathering in Scotland next year; Homecoming 2009.

Since millions of people from all over the world are of Scottish heritage this is the time to plan to go home to Scotland. While some clans have yearly gatherings in Scotland many more will organize trips or tours in 2009.

Clan is Gaelic for children and although Thomas Wolfe said "You Can't Go Home Again" I suspect many of us Scottish kids will prove him wrong.

If your clan is not planning a trip and you would like to travel on your own, look no further than <[www.ancestralscotland.com](http://www.ancestralscotland.com)>.

Once you are into the site, you can search for a clan or surname, find maps and even several day itineraries of places of special interest to your family. There are also links to obtain more information such as burial information, archives, local study libraries and parish listings.

In some of the smaller towns you will need to check and make sure of the hours of operation or set up an appointment, if necessary, as many of the local centers are manned by volunteers or only open on a limited basis.

Speak to your relatives and do as much research as you can before leaving home and take a notebook with a list of questions about the areas and

people you would like to know more about. There are 14 areas listed in [ancestralscotland](http://ancestralscotland.com), so, after you have determined how long you wish to stay in your "home" area you will also want to plan what else you wish to see while you are in Scotland or, if you are Scots-Irish, maybe a trip to Northern Ireland.

I have been in the travel business over 40 years and have been lucky enough to visit many areas of the world. Some places I visit once, some twice but nothing prepared me for the pull to keep returning to Scotland so many times after my first visit.

The other places I've returned to several times are England and France. I was not surprised to find my Lindsay/Lindsey Scots came from Normandy in France and then England before going to Scotland. They settled in the Kingdom of Fife.

Visiting Edzell Castle and looking at grave-stones of long gone Lindsays gave me link to the past I'll never forget.

Since a Touron is a cross between a tourist and a moron we sincerely hope they are not a member of our Clan.



*How could we NOT want to go back?*

# Solicitor chosen for historic King of Arms post

*Stewart Patterson March 08 2008*

A solicitor from Edinburgh has been appointed the Lord Lyon, King of Arms.

By taking up the historic office which dates back to the 14th century, David Sellar will be responsible for heraldry and genealogy in Scotland.

The first recorded Lord Lyon was appointed by Robert the Bruce in 1318, but it is thought the title goes back even further.

Mr Sellar, 67, succeeds Robin Blair with a salary of between £56,000 and £78,500 for the three-day-a-week post.

An honorary fellow of the Faculty of Law at Edinburgh University, Mr Sellar is a graduate of both Oxford and Edinburgh universities with qualifications in law and history.

During his legal career he has written on the history of various branches of Scots law, including marriage, divorce, incest, homicide and unjust enrichment. He has written work on the Lordship of the Isles and on the origins of many Highland families, including the Campbells, MacDonalDs, MacDougalls, MacLeods, Lamonts, MacNeills and Nicolsons.

The Lord Lyon office also incorporates the ancient Celtic office of the High Sennachie whose

The Lord Lyon's official Coat-of-Arms



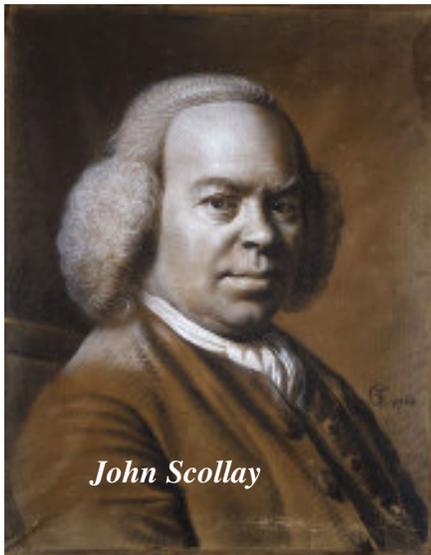
was responsible for verifying the genealogy of the King of Scotland and for crowning the King at his coronation.

The Lord Lyon is responsible for coats of arms and flags and anyone wishing to use a coat of arms must apply to that office for permission. Last month *The Herald* reported how American billionaire Donald Trump faced possible prosecution for using a coat of arms which had not been approved by the Lord Lyon.

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## *Orkadians in America...*

### **John Scollay** Pat Long, Orkney, Scotland

It is well-known in the Orkney Islands that Washington Irving's father was an Orcadian. In fact, it is hard to see how American literature

came a member of the Sons of Liberty, the organisation founded by Samuel Adams to oppose the Stamp Act of 1765. He was a close friend of Adams and several letters Adams wrote to him have been preserved. One letter, written from the first Continental Congress, in April 1776, is held by the US Library of Congress and in the catalogue Scollay is described as a brazier and merchant, political ally of Samuel Adams and perennial Selectman.

would have got on without us, as Herman Melville, Robert Frost and James Russell Lowell also have Orcadian ancestry.

I run a website in Orkney, [www.BuyOrkney.com](http://www.BuyOrkney.com) that includes biographies and interesting little bits and pieces so I decided to use the internet to look for some solid facts to back up my father's story that Herman Melville's ancestor came from Orkney and that a square in Boston was named after him. The power of the search engines enabled me to put together an interesting story in a way that would have been impossible only a few years ago.

The Scollay family, descendants of Malcolm Scollay and Barbara Elphinstone in the little island of Stronsay, had already been in America for a hundred years before the Revolution began, so it is no surprise they were firmly on the American side. John Scollay, who had been born in Boston in 1711 was a prominent citizen and a merchant wealthy enough to commission portraits of himself and his wife, Mercy Greenleaf, by the best known colonial artist, John Singleton-Copley. His portrait is in the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and his wife's is at Harvard University.

John became a Selectman of Boston in 1764 and was elected Chairman in 1774 and remained in that position until his death in 1790, covering the entire period of the Revolution.

In 1761 Scollay was one of 50 signatories of the petition to George III protesting about the illegal actions of British revenue officers and he be-

John Scollay was prominent in the meetings that led up to the Boston Tea Party and one of the Indians, Thomas Melville, was married to Scollay's daughter Priscilla. They were the great-grandparents of Herman Melville.

When General Howe, Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces was making preparations to evacuate his forces from Boston in March 1776,



the people were concerned for the town. A deputation went to Howe and asked that he spare Boston, in return for being allowed to leave without a fight. John Scollay was the first of the four "influential Boston citizens" who signed the communication to the American army, telling them of this.

Dr Joseph Warren, President of the Provincial Congress and credited with holding the army together between Lexington and the Battle of Bunker Hill, where he was killed, was a widower and

*Continued on page 19*

father of four. When he died, he was engaged to John Scollay's daughter Mercy. The Scollays took in the three youngest orphans until their uncle married and adopted them two years later.

When my father told me that there was a square in Boston named after Herman Melville's Orcadian ancestor, I pictured something tree-lined and geteel; the reality is entertainingly different.

John Scollay's son William went to Harvard, became an apothecary and, like his father, a prominent citizen. He served as a selectman and a fire-ward and, in 1792, he was elected a colonel in the Boston Militia regiment and when Paul Revere became Grand Master of the Massachusetts Grand Lodge of Freemasons he appointed Scollay as his deputy. They, with Samuel Adams, who was then the Governor of Massachusetts, laid the cornerstone of the Boston State House in 1795.

Scollay is best remembered as a property developer. He and his friend and neighbour, the famous architect Charles Bullfinch, were part of a small group who built Tontine Crescent. Although now demolished, this was the first block of brick buildings in Boston.

In 1795, Scollay bought a two-storey brick building on the intersection of Court Street and Tremont Street in Boston and called it Scollay's Building. It's location between Beacon Hill, the docks and down-town Boston meant it became a transfer-point for commuters and the conductors came to refer to the stop as Scollay's. This name came to refer to the whole square and it was made official in 1838.

The Square began as a dignified place, housing the businesses whose owners could afford to live on nearby Beacon Hill. In the giant ballroom of the Lorenzo Papanti Dance Academy, the waltz

was first danced in America and Charles Dickens appeared in 1842. As the Irish moved into Boston and the trolley-car made the population more mobile, Scollay Square became a shopping centre

In David Kruh's excellent book, "Always Something Doing – A History of Boston's Infamous Scollay Square" he describes the turn of the century as the Square's era of giant tea kettles, mobile statues, abolitionists, cavalry charges, and three of the country's greatest contributors to modern electronics."

In a workshop on the square Thomas Edison produced his first patented invention and Alexander Graham Bell and Thomas Watson first heard the sound of a human voice through a telephone. In 1831 William Lloyd Garrison began to publish an abolitionist newspaper in Scollay Square. He was twice dragged out of his office and tarred and feathered but he carried on. It was in his offices that Harriet Beecher Stowe



wrote *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and Julia Ward Howe began *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*. The office was also an important link in the Underground railway that ferried runaway slaves to the north.

The giant brass tea-kettle was a famous landmark that hung outside the Oriental Tea Company in Scollay Square. In 1875 a competition was run to guess at the kettle's capacity and more than 12,000 people entered. The large crowd that gathered to watch the measuring were entertained to see eight boys and a tall man wearing a top hat climb out of the kettle before officials poured 227 gallons, 2 quarts, 1 pint and three gills of water into it. The kettle has moved several times, as buildings were demolished from beneath it, but still hangs outside the Steaming Kettle coffee shop.

Continued on page 20

On 9 September 1919, the Boston police force went on strike, after nineteen policemen were suspended for joining a union. After two days of rioting and looting, centered on Scollay Square, the mayor made up a police force that included the State Cavalry. That evening, about ten thousand people were in Scollay Square, some watching but many rioting and looting again. The First Troop of Cavalry broke this up by charging through the square.

The most famous building in Scollay Square was The Old Howard. An Adventist minister, William Miller made careful calculations from the Scriptures and decided that the Day of Judgement would arrive on 23 April 1843. His followers built a large tabernacle on Howard Street in Scollay Square in which to await the event. "On the appointed day many Bostonians calmly picnicked on the Common, watching for the ascension of the white-robed Millerites, whom they figured would first have to crash through the tabernacle's roof." (David Kruh) When nothing happened, Miller did some re-calculations and announced a new date, 18 October 1847 but his followers decided not to wait and attempted to get back some of the money they'd given away by renting the tabernacle to a theatre company. It opened in 1845 as the Howard Atheneum and was a famous Boston institution until it burnt down in 1961.

In its first incarnation, the theatre staged classical plays, ballets and operas but by 1868 horses were being ridden on-stage in the Buffalo Bill Cody show. As a variety theatre, it was an early venue for many well-known American performers – Phil Silvers, Sammy Davis Jnr, Abbot and Costello and the Marx Brothers. As the years went on chorus girls gave way to strip-tease.

The Old Howard was just one of the many attractions for sailors in Scollay Square and the Square's heyday was during World War II, when many ships came into the Charlestown Navy Yard for repairs and supplies. The fame of its restau-

rants, bars, theatres and tattoo parlours meant that Bostonians fighting overseas would be asked by sailors how to get to Scollay Square. David Kruh quotes the reminiscence of one young sailor, "The next thing I remember I'm back in my bunk on board with this searing pain on my buttocks! ...I didn't know if I was cut up or what. So I turned to a bunkmate of mine and asked him, "Am I bleeding?" "No," he says, "but you've got a tattoo of a pink elephant on your left cheek!" And it's been there ever since, my small reminder of Scollay Square."

The best known performer in Scollay Square didn't appear at the Old Howard but at the nightclub in the Crawford House hotel. Sally Keith, the "Queen of the Tassels" performed from the late 1930s to the early 1950s. Her fame arose from being able to twirl her tassels in opposite directions. A professor at Harvard University took his first year medical students to see her act and then gave them a test on which muscles she used. Sally offered a pair of her tassels to a Boston church that was holding a fund-raising auction but they had to regretfully decline the offer. The tassels would probably have raised more money than all the other items together and the priest didn't want to try to explain to the diocese how he had raised the money.

In 1951, an article in the Harvard newsletter, *The Crimson*, after describing the delights of Scollay Square, said, "Scollay Square was named after Colonel William Scollay, class of 1804. His family was one of the first in the city commercially, socially and civically. The Scollays were a dignified and staid family, but are now extinct in Boston. It is just as well."

Scollay Square was demolished in 1962, to make way for the Government Centre but it was remembered with such affection that a campaign resulted in City Plaza being renamed Scollay Square in April 1987.

Regard, Pat Long

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

# Knights of Malta elect Englishman

Richard Owen of *The Times* in Rome

In an unprecedented move an Englishman has been elected for the second time running as Grand Master of the Knights of Malta, the Roman Catholic order which traces its origins to the Crusades nearly a thousand years ago.

Fra Matthew Festing OBE, 58, an art expert and former army officer who leads the order in Britain as Grand Prior and is regarded as a forward looking reformer, was chosen today. The secret ballot took place today at a papal-style conclave in the Knights' secluded headquarters on the Aventine Hill in Rome.

The Knight's inner council, dressed in black robes embroidered with a white eight-pointed cross elected the new leader of the order of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta, as the Knights are also known. The 79th Grand Master, with the title "His Most Eminent Highness", takes over an organisation which is noted for its humanitarian work in conflict zones.

The order is also fighting a campaign to dispel the "myth" that it is rich, powerful and secretive. The election took only a few hours, seen as a sign of unanimity over reported plans to make the order more "open and transparent" and better known globally for its charitable and medical relief operations in 120 countries.

Grand Masters, like Popes, are elected for life. The move was announced after it had been approved by Pope Benedict XVI. It comes a month after the death of Fra' Andrew Bertie, a former schoolmaster and descendant of the Stuart dynasty who was the first Englishman to lead the order and served as its Grand Master for nearly 20 years.

Under his leadership the order - which has the status of sovereign state, with its own passports and stamps - expanded its diplomatic relations from 49 to 100 countries. The order has 12,500

full members, of whom only 50 are "professed knights" who take monk-like vows of poverty, obedience and chastity.

The order said that the new Grand Master "affirms his resolve to continue the great work carried out by his predecessor". It added: "Fra' Matthew comes with a wide range of experience in Order affairs. He has been the Grand Prior of England since the Priory's re-establishment in 1993, restored after an abeyance of 450 years. In this capacity, he has led missions of humanitarian aid

to Kosovo, Serbia and Croatia after the recent disturbances in those countries, and with a large delegation from Britain he attends the Order's annual pilgrimage to Lourdes with handicapped pilgrims."

He was educated at Ampleforth and St John's College Cambridge, where he read history. As

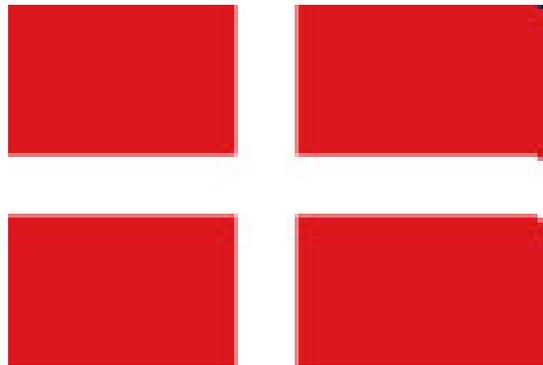
a child he lived in Egypt and Singapore, where his father, Field Marshal Sir Francis Festing, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, was posted. He is also descended from Sir Adrian Fortescue, a Knight of Malta martyred in 1539.

Fra' Matthew served in the Grenadier Guards and holds the rank of colonel in the Territorial Army. He was appointed OBE by the Queen and served as Deputy Lieutenant in Northumberland. He joined the order in 1977, taking solemn religious vows in 1991.

A spokeswoman for the order said he was noted for his "very British sense of humour" as well as his passion for the decorative arts and encyclopaedic knowledge of the history of the Order.

Fra Matthew has promoted the teaching of Christianity in schools, observing that "We live during a strange period in history when children

*Continued on page 22*



*Flag of the Knights of Malta*

are taught “Comparative Religion” and leave school believing it does not matter what religion you profess .....No wonder many young people are astonished that anyone could possibly have been prepared to suffer and die for the faith”.

At one time the order, which is predominantly male, was drawn from European aristocratic families. This has led conspiracy theorists to paint it as a rich and powerful cabal given to arcane rituals.

However Albrecht von Boeselager, the Grand Hospitaller in charge of the order’s humanitarian arm, said this was “completely untrue”. Charges that the order was conducting a secret “New Crusade” in Muslim countries and had sent mercenaries to fight in Iraq or Afghanistan were also “absolutely without foundation”.

He added: “This kind of talk endangers our volunteers in the Muslim world. In Bethlehem we have a maternity hospital which delivers 3000 babies year, 80% of them Muslim. We are Catholic but neutral”.

Winfried Henckel von Donnersmarck, a member of the order’s Sovereign Council, said the or-

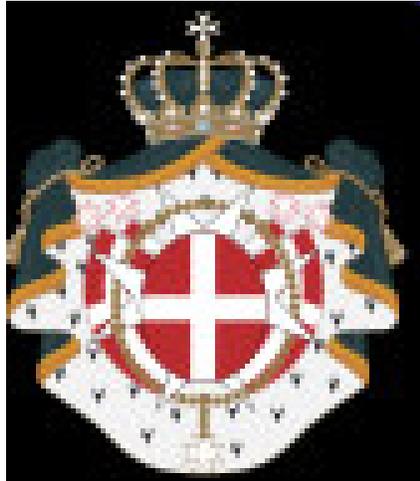
der had 80,000 volunteers and spent £500 million a year helping the world’s poor. “The only mystery is one of history. Any organisation is going to have mysteries if it has a thousand years of history behind it “ he said.

He said women played a growing role, with Noreen Falcone recently becoming the first woman head of the order’s national association in the US.

On its website the order’s British chapter notes that there were English knights from the time of the First Crusade, with two priories established in the twelfth century , one for England, Wales and Scotland, and another for Ireland. The Grand Priory of England “received a great accession of wealth

and property when the Templars were suppressed in 1312.”

The order was dissolved by Henry VIII in 1540, when several prominent Knights of Malta were executed. The Grand Priory’s ecclesiastical seat is the Church of St. John of Jerusalem in St. John’s Wood in London. It is separate from the Most Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem in the British Realm, founded in 1888, but the two bodies signed a co-operation agreement in 1963.



*Crest of the Knights of Malta*

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See Pat Long’s column on Orkney/USA connections on page 18!

Read more about Orkney’s connections with the USA at

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

On-line shopping, guide book, webcams and more from  
the Orkney Islands!

# SGES, Jax sets April meeting

The Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society (Jacksonville, Florida) meeting is Saturday, April 12, 2008 at 10:15 AM. The meeting will be held at the Mandarin Regional Library, 3330 Kori Road in the Community Meeting Room.

Our speaker will be Sarah Quintin from Quintin Publishing Co. The topic will be "Publishing Your Writings".

This is a follow up to our March Meeting of "Bringing Your Ancestors to Life" writing workshop. Ms. Quintin will present information on copyrights and tips on publishing. Our meetings are free and open to the public. Additional information, call (904) 778-1000

Nela Eberhardy, SGES, 904 487-6588,  
P u b l i c i t y @ s g e s . c o m

The Arizona Games are now in Phoenix!

Check their website for February 2009 information..

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



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## Clan Wallace International Gathering set for next September 11-30 at Estes Park, Colorado Long's Peak Scottish/Irish Festival

Clan Wallace asks that you mark your calendars now and plan to attend the 2009 Clan Wallace International Gathering to be held in Estes Park,



*Sir William Wallace*

Colorado September 11 - 13 in conjunction with the 33rd Longs Peak Scottish/Irish Highland Festival.

Clan Wallace has been chosen as one of the

Honored Clans for the 2009 festival.

Over 75,000 are expected to attend the event, one of the largest in the United States. Over fifty activities run throughout the weekend, including a US/International Jousting Competition, Amateur and Professional Scottish Athletic Championships, Evening Tattoo's with pipe bands from around the country performing. There will be dancers, food, clan exhibitions, dog competitions, 100+ Celtic importers and crafters, nightly concerts and more.

Please visit <http://www.scotsfest.com> for complete information on the Long's Peak Scottish/Irish Highland Festival.

If you'd like to attend the Wallace event, and would like to have information on the International Gathering, please send your full name, address, ages - if youth, phone numbers, email address and a nonrefundable payment of \$10 per person. Mail to Lisa Donant, CWSW Treasurer, 7454 Plum Rose Court, Mechanicsville, VA 23111.

Persons who respond will be placed on a Priority List for the Gathering and provided with all required information for attendance to be mailed early next year. If you have questions, please email [lisa7454@verizon.net](mailto:lisa7454@verizon.net)

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### A mystery for TN & NC history buffs...

I have a group of individuals and families that I am researching, not all related. I have found some of the women widowed and owning land in their own names. Much of this information comes from 1820-1840 census documents for Lincoln Co., TN. They made a move from Surry Co., NC to Lincoln Co., TN just prior to 1820. I found something interesting on the census for 1820. On three pages there are listed 12 Widows as head of household with no men in the household of an age to be a husband. Some of them are listed next to families of the same name. It seems a little strange to have so many husbandless families in the same area. What was going on in history during this time frame that could explain such an occurrence? How about women owning land in their names? Isn't that odd for the time? Why would this be allowed?

Reply <[ccollum212@msn.com](mailto:ccollum212@msn.com)> please.

# You're invited to Tartan Day festivities in NYC

New York's Tartan Day festivities don't end with the parade on Saturday. We hope you can join us on Sunday, April 6 for Tartan Day on Ellis Island.

Ellis Island will again play host to a broad range of outstanding performers who will present Scotland's "portable culture" – the music, dance, and folk tales that were brought to this country by Scottish immigrants.

The growing roster of performers include, The New York Celtic Dancers, Grammy Award-winning fiddler, Lisa Gutkin, "Pipes of Christmas" favorites Susie Petrov (accordion) and Christopher Layer (uilleann pipes) of Local Hero, and the St. Ann's of Hampton (NJ) Pipe Band.

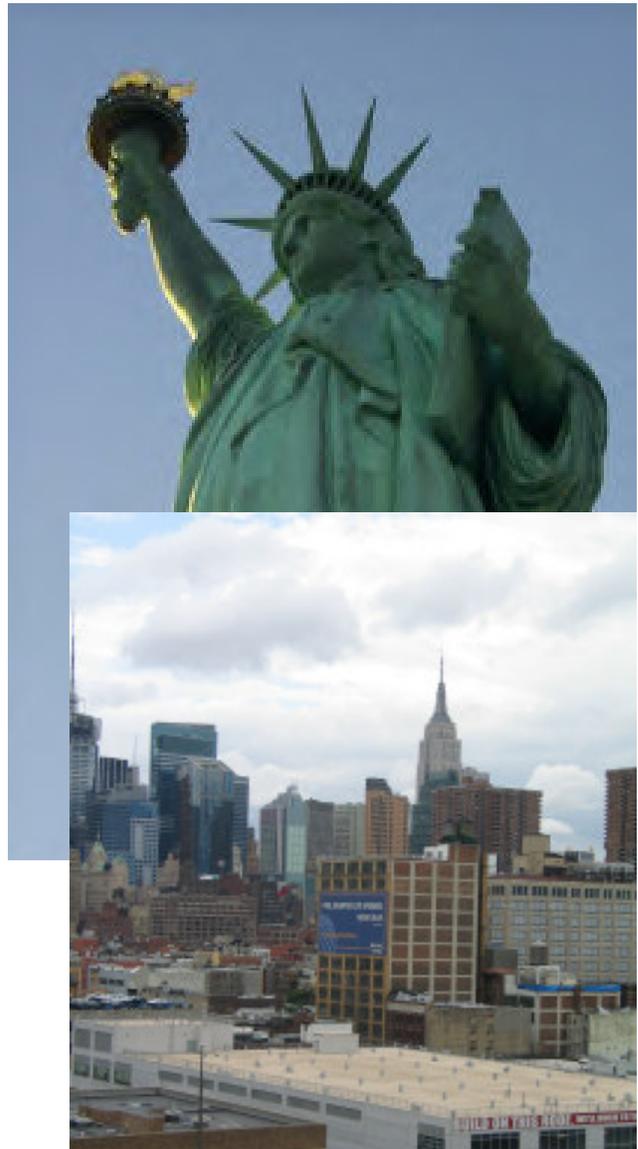
In addition, several Scottish-themed films will be screened in the Ellis Island Theater. Titles include, "A New Way to a New World" from the critically-acclaimed "Island Tapes" program, "Scotland: The Pride and the Passion" from VisitScotland, "The Gathering 2009" which outlines the upcoming international clan gathering in Edinburgh and Clan Currie's award-winning documentary, "The Crafter's Song."

Program runs from 10AM to 4PM. Admission is free-of-charge for all events.

For further information on Tartan Day on Ellis Island, visit [www.clancurrie.com](http://www.clancurrie.com)

For complete ferry schedules from Battery Park (NY) and Jersey City (NJ), visit [www.circlelinedowntown.com](http://www.circlelinedowntown.com). There is a fee for ferry service. NOTE: Lines get quite long for the ferry from NYC early in the day.

For a complete listing of New York Tartan Week activities, including Tartan Day in the British Memorial Garden, Whisky Live, the Kirking of the Tartans, the St. Andrew's Society Reception and Tartan Ball and the NY Tartan Day Parade, visit



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

Tartan Day on Ellis Island is presented annually by the Clan Currie Society - producers of "The Pipes of Christmas" concert which returns to New York on Sunday, December 21, 2008.

Important Reminder - wearing the kilt or tartan is strongly encouraged but sgian dubhs, dirks and other ornamental weaponry is not permitted and will be confiscated by security screeners and NOT returned. Bands - Please contact us in advance if you would like to bring pipes and drums with you. Ellis Island is a terrific spot to play with the NY City skyline as your backdrop!

Please share this announcement with your friends and colleagues. Robert Currie, FSA Scot, Chairman Tartan Day on Ellis Island.

# Flowers of the Forest

**Sherwin J. “Shevie” Kader**, died last summer at the age of 72. He was the husband of Priscilla “Pete” Kucik and father of Dana (Alan) Robb, Rona (Gary) Wolfe, Judy (Bruce) Brenner and Jacob (Sarah) Kader. He was also survived by numerous grandchildren.

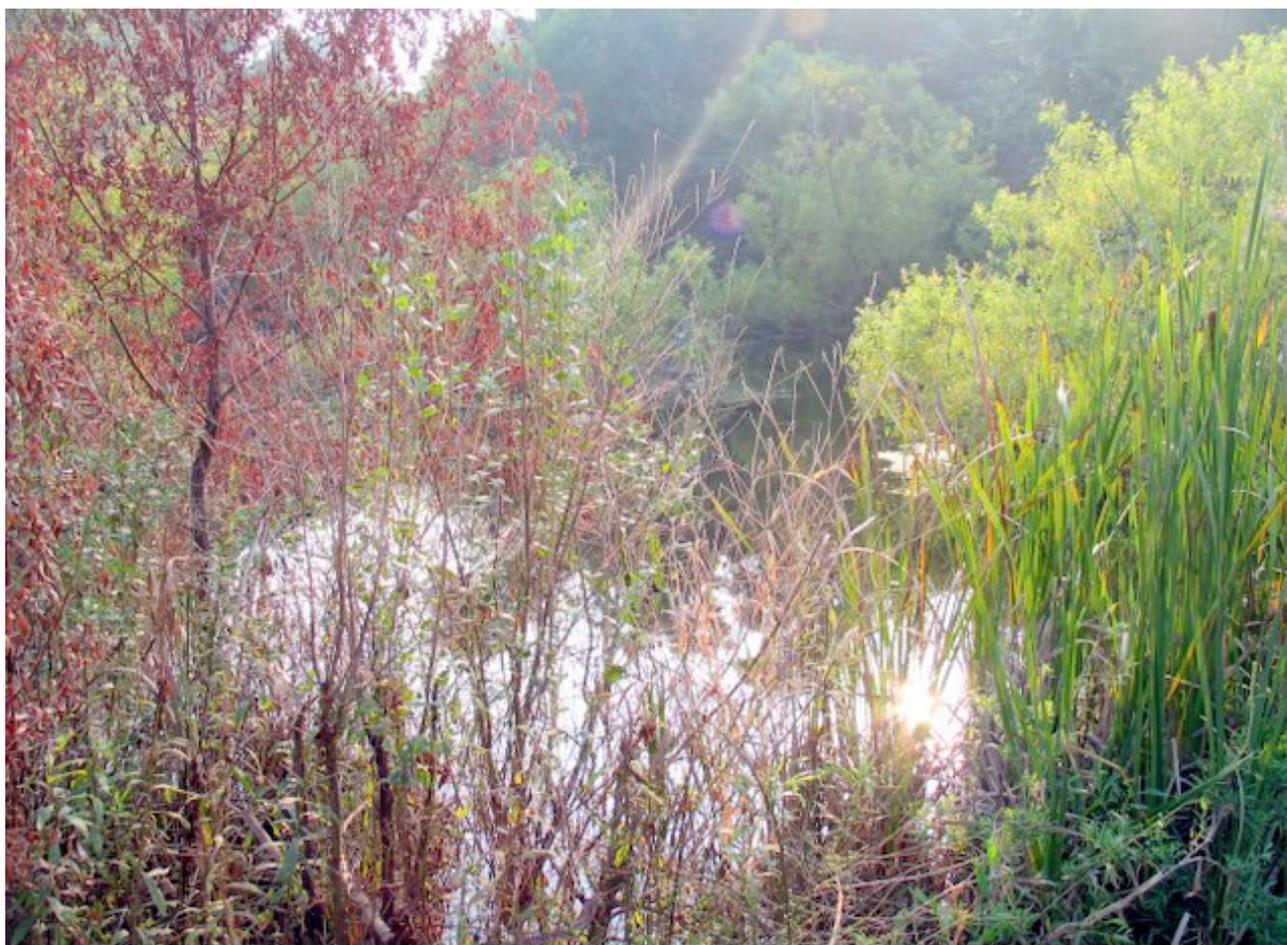
The Clan MacLeod newsletter says that Shevie was probably one of the world’s longest-living heart transplant recipients.

He attended Washington High School in Milwaukee. He was an outspoken advocate of the State of

Israel and served in the Israeli Border Guard and worked at several kibbutzim.

In Milwaukee, Shevie worked at A.O. Smith for nearly 20 years. He was a founding member of Concerned Jewish Citizens in Milwaukee and was a member of Clan MacLeod, founding member of the Robert Burns Club, 32nd degree Mason and was a member of the Society for Creative Anachronism.

He taught fencing, was a winemaker and enjoyed building model ships. He loved to tell a good story and knew thousands of jokes.



Please let us know if you have *Flowers of the Forest* for publication. Just email - and enclose a color photograph in jpeg format if you wish - [bethscribble@aol.com](mailto:bethscribble@aol.com)

Deadlines are always the 15th of the month preceding publication.

# The N. Joann MacKinnon Osborne Scholarship Award applications now accepted for July 2008 awards

Applications for the N. Joann MacKinnon Osborne Scholarship Award will be sent to members of the Clan MacKinnon Society along with their membership renewal notices. Members will have until July 1, 2008 to return the applications.

The purpose of this award is to further Scottish heritage for future generations by supporting students of the Scottish/Celtic arts of piping, singing, dancing, fiddling and Highland athletics. The award is to be used for the tuition, equipment and fees involved with competing.

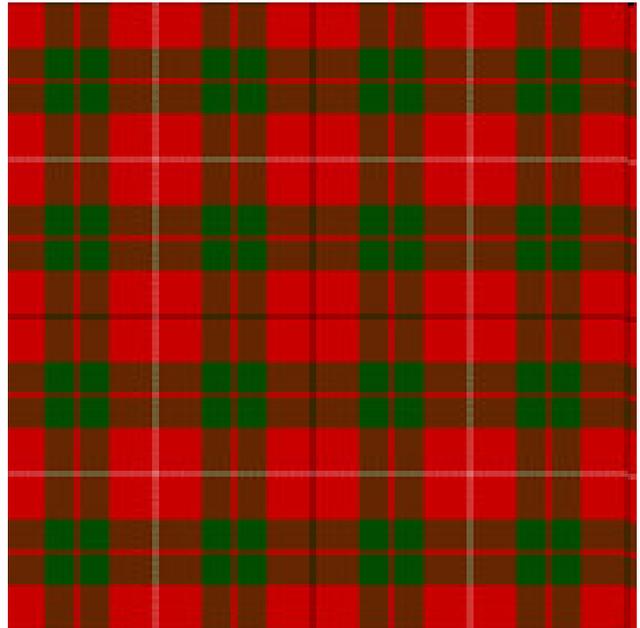
Each year the Clan MacKinnon Society will award for up to two scholarships in the amount of \$250 each.

The winners will be notified by phone or email and their names, along with photographs, will be published in the winter issue of The Shank Bone.

If you would like information on membership in Clan MacKinnon or the scholarships, please contact [ronweb@citilink.net](mailto:ronweb@citilink.net)

The scholarships are in honor of the founder of the Clan MacKinnon - N. Joann MacKinnon Osborne.

*I cherished my friendship with Joann and Ozzie. I still have a little sparkledy American flag*



*Clan MacKinnon tartan.*

*pin that Joann gave me and think of her each time I wear it. Joann and Ozzie both worked so hard to ensure that the Scottish family of MacKinnon was represented at Highland Games. They were dear and special folks. I miss them both. Your ed.*

## “Glenfiddich” means what?

One of the rivers in the Speyside region of the Scottish Highlands is on the River Riddich. Glenfiddich Distillery is located in one of the glens of that river.

“Glenfiddich” is Scots Gaelic, meaning “valley of the deer (or stag)”.

In case you’re also wondering...that’s also why there is a beautiful stag as part of the Glenfiddich whisky logo and label.

*With thanks to my friend, Ray Pearson.*





# July 10 - 13, 2008

## MacRae Meadows, Linville, NC

### Thursday, July 10th

#### Picnic, Torchlight Ceremony & Sheep Herding

4:30 PM Picnic - Food concessions are available at MacRae Meadows or you can bring your own.

Scottish Entertainment

Traditional Celtic Music. Performers to be announced

Sheep Herding: Sheep Herding with Border Collies on the field.

**7 PM The Bear: Assault on Grandfather** This five-mile footrace climbs 1,568 feet in elevation from the town of Linville to the summit of Grandfather mountain. Over 800 runners will start up the Old Yonahlossee Road from Linville at 7 PM, circle the Highland Games track around 7:15, and head up the Grandfather Mountain summit road

More Sheep Herding

Torchlight Cermony:

Opening ceremony announcing each participating Clan's arrival to the Games

### Friday, July 11th

8 AM The Grizzly Bike Race

9 AM MacRae Meadows Opens: Preliminary athletic competition, sheep herding, music/dancing exhibitions. Celtic Groves will be open and other activities will highlight the day.

Opening Ceremonies

- Highland Wrestling Clinic for children
- Children's Tent and Field Activities
- Harp Workshop
- Sheep Herding
- History & Genealogy Studies at Clan Tents
- Highland Dancing Pre-Championship
- Lochaber Trump Competition in the Harp and Fiddling Tent

3:00 PM Day events completed, preparation begins for Celtic

Jam

**Grandfather Mountain Highland Games Presents:**

7 - 11 PM Celtic Music Jam Concert tracing the evolution of Celtic Music from the ancient to the contemporary at MacRae Meadows.

8 - 10 PM Ceilidh

Family gathering of Scottish folk music, song and dance.

Hayes Auditorium at Lees-McRae College. \$10 adults/\$5 children 12 & under (Tickets sold only at the door).

**Grandfather Mountain Highland Games presents**

8:00 PM - 12 AM Scottish Country Dance Gala Williams Gymnasium at Lees-McRae College. \$20 dancers / \$3 spectators. (Tickets sold only at the door).

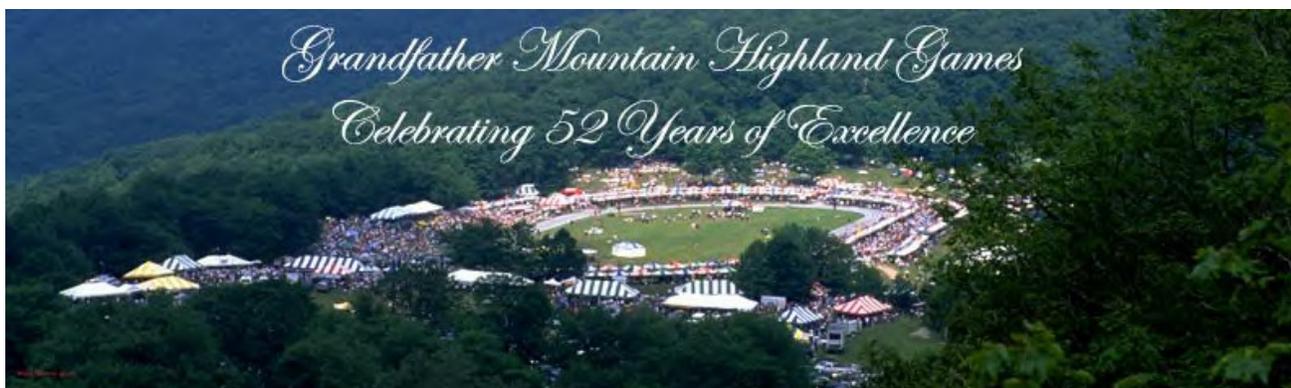
### Saturday, July 12th

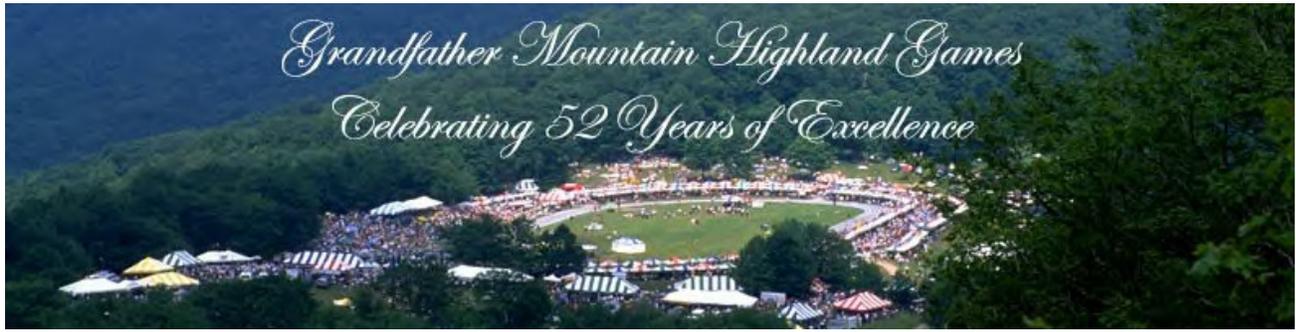
7:00 AM Mountain Marathon begins in Boone, NC. Runners will arrive at Games track around 9:30 AM. Among the most strenuous marathons in the nation.

7:30 AM MacRae Meadows Opens

- Amateur Heavy Athletic Qualifying Begins
- Competition begins for Highland Dancing Atlantic International Championship, piping, drumming, Scottish athletic events, track & field events, Scottish country dancing, Scottish fiddling, and Scottish harp.
- Children's Highland Wrestling Competition
- Sheep Herding
- Massed Bands on track
- Opening Ceremonies
- History & Genealogy Studies at Clan Tent
- Children's Tent Activities

Continued on page 29





**Grandfather Mountain**, continued from page 28

- Celtic Grove Music
- Highland Wrestling
- Harp Competitions
- Pre-Premier Highland Dance Competition
- Scottish Fiddling Workshop & Jam Session

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games presents:

7:00 - 8:30 Piping Concert

Trillium Room, Broyhill Inn & Conference Center, Boone. \$10  
( Tickets sold only at the door). Under age 5 free.

7:00 PM Celtic Rock Concert at MacRae Meadows.

\$10 Adults / \$5 Children age 5-12

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games presents

8:00 - 10:00 PM Ceilidh

Concert of Scottish folk music, song & dance.

Hayes Auditorium at Lees-McRae College. \$10 adults / \$5  
children 12 & under. (Tickets sold only at the door).

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games presents

8:30 PM Alex Beaton & Friends Concert by Scotland's premier  
entertainer. Trillium Room, Broyhill Inn and Conference Center,  
Boone, NC. \$10 per person. (Tickets sold only at the door).

**Sunday, July 13th**

8:00 AM MacRae Meadows Opens

- Scottish Heavy Athletic Demonstration and Clinic
- Prelude Music for Worship Service Begins

9:00 AM Scottish Worship Service Outside main gate, bring  
a folding chair. Includes Kirkin' of the Tartans.  
Children's Border Collie Demonstration on the main field.

Celtic Grove Entertainment Begins

Parade of Tartans Guests of Honor & Distinguished Guests  
are introduced as all members of the sponsoring clans are invited  
to march in the parade behind the massed pipe bands.

Scottish Fiddling Competition

Atlantic International Highland Dance Championship  
Competition

Competition takes place throughout the day for Scottish  
athletic events, sheep herding, kilted miles, children's events,  
Scottish country dancing, Scottish harps, Clan Tugs-of-War. Celtic  
Grove entertainment continues.

History & Genealogy Studies at Clan Tents

Sheep Herding Demonstration

4:00 PM Closing Ceremonies



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# Robert Burns Lives!

Frank R. Shaw, FSA Scot, Dawsonville, GA email: jurascot@earthlink.net

## Burns Nicht Bits, Tidbits, and Fragments

This article is dedicated to those fine people at Mount Airy, NC who are members of The Scottish Heritage Society of the Blue Ridge and The Mount Airy Museum of Regional History for sponsoring Burns Nicht, especially to Linda Blue Stanfield, museum director, and Scotia Script editor, Tom Scott, who puts out a great newsletter for the society's members. I particularly want to thank the many others who made possible the wonderful time those of us attending had in celebrating Burns Nicht at the Cross Creek Country Club on January 26, 2008. The theme for the evening was "A Celebration of the Life and Times of Robert Burns."

I look back on that occasion with great memories. A tip of the hat to the Reverend Dale Cline, our emcee, for his humor, particularly about pipers and their bagpipes. Dale delivered an outstanding rendition of "Address to the Haggis". Special thanks are also in order to the Triad Scottish Fiddlers & Friends who entertained during dinner with songs from Robert Burns, a very nice touch indeed! (Other Burns Clubs should take note!) I was notably thankful for the wonderful haggis. The chef was kind enough to serve me a second helping, as well as a wee bit to bring back to Atlanta. I must confess, though, it never made it any farther than my motel room!

Susan and I enjoyed the warm welcome of these gracious men and women who proudly spoke of their Scottish heritage and wore their tartans with an air of dignity! These Scottish Southerners did

justice to the acclaimed hospitality that Scots and Southerners alike are known for around the world. It was an honor to be asked to deliver The Immortal Memory in the home town of famed television star, Andy Griffith. I only hope your Burns Nicht was as good as ours in Mount Airy – it ranked right up there with the best I have participated in over the years!



*Luncheon honoring Susan and Frank Shaw at the Caledonian Club in London by members of the London Burns Club.*

With that said, I was curious to know how Burns Nicht was celebrated here in the United States and in Scotland this year, so I fired off an email to several of my friends to inquire. What follows are illustrations on how hundreds honored the

birthday of Robert Burns with their celebrations around the world. Maybe this article will tempt you to look up more on the Internet.

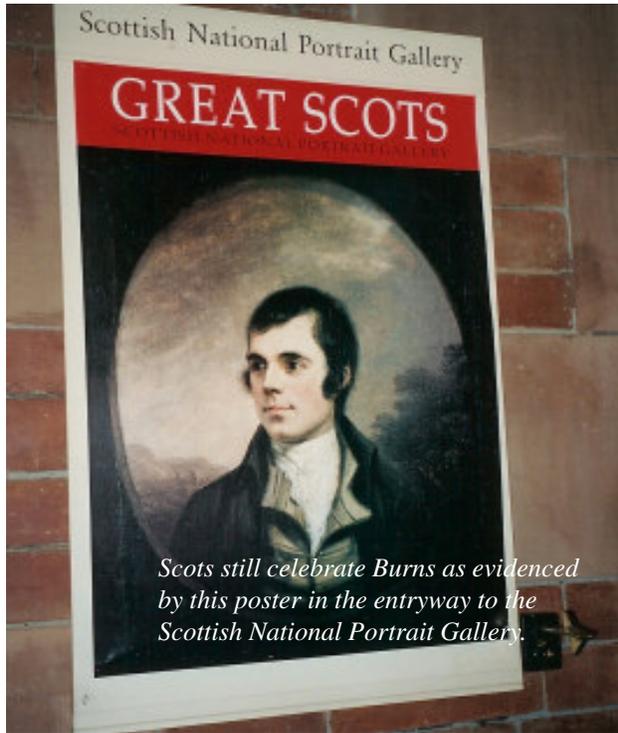
Let me start with a Scottish cottage - though not in Scotland - that means a lot to Susan and me. I have it on good report that the Atlanta Burns Club, of which I am a member, had its usual full house. I missed celebrating with my fellow members due to the commitment to speak at Mount Airy. One thing is for sure, however, you can always count on an excellent

*Continued on page 31*



*Globe Inn in Dumfries where Burns overnighted and had many a dram over the years.*

program and wonderful food at the Burns Cottage. If you are ever planning a visit to Atlanta and want to see the Burns Cottage, plan ahead, and let me know of your arrival. I will do my best to ar-



range to have it opened for you. There is much Scottish history in this Burns Club, and their hospitality is just superb!

My own St. Andrew's Society in Atlanta observed their Burns Nicht Dinner at the Druid Hills Golf Club two weeks later than originally planned. Mother Nature's blanket of snow and ice intervened, and a make-up event was necessary. It was the first time in the club's history that a dinner of any kind had been cancelled, but the streets were impassable and the chef thought it wise not to risk anyone being out in the elements. However, the cancellation did not dampen the spirits of those attending the later date as the club's beautiful ballroom was packed with over 140 people. Some of those who could not attend the make-up date were replaced by some who could not attend on the original date. It was a great evening enjoyed by one and all. An outstanding Immortal Memory was delivered by friend Jim Montgomery. One sugges-

tion: I hope next year the Chef does a better job with the haggis – it's not to be served like a slice of meatloaf. Perhaps a call to Chef Chris Wishart at the Cross Creek Country Club in Mount Airy for a few tips would be in order, or take a hint and try Caledonian haggis next time!

I heard from the Burns Club of London that they had 230 in attendance for their dinner. Jim Henderson, the club's honorary secretary, and I correspond from time to time. I can say from personal experience that these people know how to welcome guests from around the world. In 2005 they hosted a luncheon for Susan and me at the Caledonian Club in London, and the time with them will always be remembered as a very special one. If pressed, I would testify under oath that the best haggis I have ever eaten came from their club, in the heart of London, but then they have a fulltime Scottish chef who knows how to pamper the Scottish membership. Their hospitality ranks among the best in my Burns world!

From way up in Wester Ross, Scotland came this message from Ian McMillan, a very interesting and talented Burnsian: "Our Burns night was once more a great success. We squeezed well over 60 into our hotel and were again oversubscribed. Our club, The Wester Ross Burns Club, up to 20 strong, will now join the (Burns World) Federation." Ian was a busy man this Burns season. He gave the Immortal Memory at the Avoch Burns Club on the Black Isle and also spoke at the Rotary Burns night in Ullapool and the Strathpeffer Burns Club in Dingwall. Congratulations, Ian! You are truly a Burns ambassador.

Benny Gillies, friend and one of Scotland's top antiquarian book dealers, told me he went to an "Evening with Burns" at the Coach and Horses Pub in Dumfries "just around the corner where Burns stayed in Banks St." Benny's niece from Ireland was visiting him, along with seven of her friends, for the weekend and "they fancied a bit of haggis and neeps". He goes on to say that this was a fairly informal event and the "haggis was addressed in good fashion". I have learned that many pubs in

*Continued on page 32*

**Frank Shaw**, *continued from page 31*

Scotland have a Burns Nicht and draw big crowds. If ever there was a Burns “honest man”, Benny is that man! Check out his web site at [www.bennygillies.co.uk](http://www.bennygillies.co.uk) for his Secondhand and Antiquarian Scottish Books, Maps, and Prints located in Kirkpatrick Durham, Castle Douglas, not too far out of Dumfries. He’ll do you right!

Shirley Bell, Chief Executive of the Robert Burns World Federation in Kilmarnock, wrote that she attended several Burns Nicht functions “and perhaps two most memorable were the West Sound Burns Supper held in Glasgow and St. Michael’s Burns Club Supper held in Dumfries”. The West Sound Supper had 600 in attendance with the highlight of the evening being the School Children winners of the Federation Schools Festivals. Standing ovations were given to the flautist, singer, and choir. Karen Dunbar, a well known comedienne, recited Tam O’Shanter and this was certainly the best interpretation of the poem I have heard. She was wonderful.”

Shirley went on to say that a new club, St. Michael’s Burns Club formed by members of the church, had 77 attending. “Robert Burns is of course buried in the Church yard and the minister rightly claims that the club is nearest the Bard! David Shankland, MBE, delivered the Immortal Memory to a hushed audience and had everyone spellbound with his honest and thought provoking message.” Much has been written about Burns and religion over the years. When Susan and I visited St. Michael’s Church on our last visit to Scotland, I made sure to take a couple of pictures of the designated “Burns Pew”. Yes, Burns attended church throughout his life!

A “SOLD OUT” Burns Nicht was held at the First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York. Good friend Thomas Keith, one of the organizers, writes that 115 celebrated Burns Night to honor the poet and hear successful crime novelist Val McDermid speak and sing. Tom said she spoke about what Burns meant to her while growing up in Scotland. Her theme: “The universal qualities of Burns writing that anyone and everyone can relate to in regards to love, friendship, humor, re-

sponsibility and respect for our fellow humans,” and she would sing a Burns song when appropriate during the Immortal Memory. Entertainment was by “The Highland Shatners” and about two hours of Scottish dancing was led by Ann Hawkins and Jack Cole. Chief of this fine club is Ian R. Betts.

Clark McGinn, known and heralded as the “Burns Supper Specialist” and one of many outstanding members of the London Burns Club, writes that he was active during the Burns Nicht season. He literally traveled over 36,000 miles, speaking to over two thousand people around the world. He called it “360 degrees of Rabbie” with 18 Immortal Memories this year with the Sydney Opera House being the exciting one! That’s a lot of haggis, my friend!” For those of you wanting to put a wee bit of zing into your Burns Dinner/Supper, check out his current book, *The Ultimate Burns Supper Book: A Practical (But Irreverent) Guide to Scotland’s Greatest Celebration*. Clark goes on to say, “I am just finishing the draft of my new book which is a look at all the festivals of Scotland today...”

Ron Murray, Associate Director at the University of Virginia School of Medicine’s Office of Continuing Medical Education, emailed that “the Kilmarnock and District Pipe Band’s Burns Nicht was a grand mix of music, dance and readings” on February 2nd. An extra touch this year to begin the program was a darkened hall with a spotlight on the Rampant Lion with Ron, out of sight of the audience, reading the poem, “A Man’s A Man For A’ That”. The lights came up on the rolls and the band made a stunning entrance. Located near Weems, Virginia, the pipe band observes Burns Night to raise money for their band. Other groups should take note of this great idea.

David Smith, my friend and contact at The Globe Inn’s Burns Howff Club in Dumfries, writes that their club observed its 119th anniversary dinner on January 25, 2008. The Immortal Memory speaker was Alex Fergusson, MSP and Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, who delivered

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a passionate speech. “The speaker believed that Burns did not enjoy farming but found great ability as a poet while at the plough and was able to paint pictures with words, the only tools at his fingertips.” As is their custom and tradition, the club presented Mr. Fergusson with an honorary membership. The Consul General of the Ukraine, Mr. Bohfdan Yaremenko, was a special guest of the club. The Consul General noted that “Robert Burns was very famous in the Ukraine and school children were taught of his life and work”. A spirited version of “Auld Lang Syne” concluded the evening’s program. A 119-year-old-celebration deserves our heartiest congratulations. That, my friends, is a lot of Burns and haggis over the years!

Word on the street is that the Heather and Thistle Club in Houston had over 700 in attendance this year. That is in part a large tribute to Jack Hume, one of the finest Burnsians I have ever known. He and his friends have built that club into one of the biggest in the world. I can’t imagine that much haggis in one place! Congratulations, Jack!

A few more programs were brought to my attention that you may find of interest. On the evening of our St. Andrew’s Burns Nicht in Atlanta, I was given a page downloaded from the Internet describing a Burns Supper held at the Rabbie Burns Scottish Club. This club/pub, owned by two ex-pats, opens daily at 6 p.m. and closes at 3 a.m.-ish! They proudly report they held their own Burns supper and “educated the unacquainted to

Robert Burns.” The pub is located in Calangute, Goa, India. Good for them!

Scotsman.com reports that Edinburgh’s Ukrai-



nian community observed a Burns Supper during the latter part of February. They celebrated both the Ukranian poet Taras Shevchenko and Robert Burns with their traditional dish of red beetroot soup along with haggis, neeps and tatties. Over 80 Scots and Ukranians attended. Red beetroot soup? I would hope I would not shy away from it the way some do haggis, but I confess it might be hard not to!

You’ll be interested in knowing that 110 people

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**Frank Shaw**, *continued from page 30*

gathered at the Hotel Melia to observe Burns Night in Hanoi, Vietnam. This Burns Dinner was organized by the Indo-China Usegebeathe Club and was replete with piper, haggis, toasts, dancing and The Immortal Memory. Can you imagine Robert Burns in Hanoi?!

For a little more international flavor, I wish to thank Thomas Keith for the following information. The Scotsman published their “Best International Burns Suppers” list and those making it were: 1. The Highland Heritage Society of Buenos Aires, Argentina 2. The Granite Club/Scottish Studies Foundation of Toronto, Ontario 3. The Caledonian Bar in Budapest, Hungary 4. The St. Andrew’s Society of Moscow 5. The Jeddah Caledonian Society of Saudi Arabia

Such lists remind me of a wee story I heard years ago about a drunk and the thermos bottle. This fellow was trying to figure out how a thermos functions. You put in a hot item, and it remains hot for a while. You fill it with a cold item, and it remains cold for a while. He gave up trying to understand how the thermos works by simply asking in his inebriated condition, “How do it know?”

I like to poke fun at such lists because, like restaurant lists and movie reviews, they are highly subjective. I checked out the story and could not find that anyone from The Scotsman attended any of these Five Best International Burns Dinners. More importantly, the article was written on January 23, two days before any of these dinners were observed. So, I have just one question for the writer: “How do you know?”!

This has been just what it started out to be – bits, pieces, fragments, and tidbits about a few of the Burns celebrations around the globe that have come across my desk. Burns Nicht, let me assure you, was celebrated from Russia to the United Kingdom and from America to the Middle East. Wherever Scots go, from the Alamo to the Artic, they take their Burns poetry and songs with them and celebrate both with gusto! No other poet in the history of mankind, including Willie Shakespeare, is celebrated year in and year out like Burns. Remember, Robert Burns told his wife Jean just prior to his death that he would be more famous in a hundred years than while living. My, my, my...little did he know! This is why, years ago, I named my Burns web site Robert Burns Lives!



*Thought everyone who ever had an old “homeplace” would enjoy this photograph of the road leading to everyone’s memories. No matter where your own homeplace is actually located, you can “see” it just around this bend.*



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