

Vol. XVI No. 2 *Beth's Newfangled Family Tree* Section B August 2022

Experts despair as avian flu inflicts mounting toll in once safe haven of Fair Isle

THE SUNDAY POST Jen Stout on Fair Isle

The northern end of Fair Isle is bonxie territory. These huge, hulking brown birds rule the roost up here in the hills, circling lazily with a beady eye on any potential invader, anyone foolish enough to venture near to their nests, ready to swoop and hit – hence the great skuas’ Shetland name, bonxie.

Now, at midsummer, they should be right in the swing of the breeding season, guarding their fat fluffball chicks.

Instead, the hills are littered with corpses of these big predators, their glazed eyes and sharp beaks daubed in yellow spray paint – marking them out as victims of the devastating avian flu epidemic sweeping through Scotland’s seabird colonies this summer.

Across Scotland 490 wild birds, in 24 species, have now tested positive for H5N1. But pictures and anecdotal evidence suggest numbers hundreds of times higher than this already.

Here in Shetland it’s the impact on gannets

and skuas that’s worrying people most.

Great skuas are rare. Of just 16,000 breeding pairs globally, more than half are in Scotland. And, of those, most are in Shetland, and around 500 pairs come back each year to tiny Fair Isle, halfway between Shetland and Orkney.

The risk to human health posed by bird flu is considered very low but those working in conservation, watching the rafts of dead animals washing ashore round the country’s coastline, have been voicing concerns that this disease could push species like the bonxie over the edge.

Fair Isle ranger, Holly Pickett, said: “For the last couple of years the bonxie population has been completely decimated by bird flu. This year we’ve counted over 200 dead, and that’s only within dense colonies – just a small sample.”

For complete story: <https://www.sundaypost.com/fp/experts-despair-as-avian-flu-inflicts-mounting-toll/>

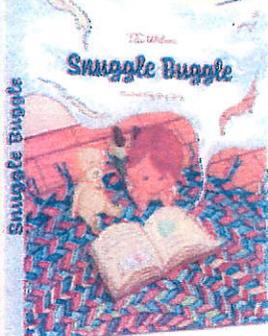
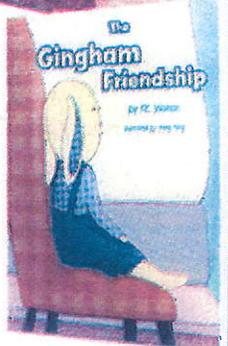
CELEBRATING

International Cat Day

AUGUST 8th

The latest news about Finlay is on page 31.



Author
T.E. WATSON

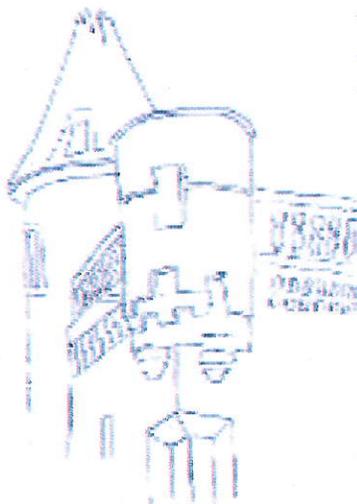
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The Flow Country: Campaign to protect the peat bog wilderness that could help save planet

THE SUNDAY POST Struan Stevenson

More than 1,000 years ago, Vikings began to construct forts and farmsteads in Caithness and Sutherland, or Suder land – southern land – as they called it.

They quickly recognised that great tracts of wet boggy land were unsuitable for farming and described it using the Old Norse word “floi”, which means wet or marshy. It was from this Viking description that the tag Flow Country was derived.

Today we know this enormous expanse of blanket bog, covering 4,000 square kilometres of Caithness and Sutherland, an area 16 times the size of Malta, is of worldwide importance, not only as a carbon store but as a globally rare and significant type of blanket bog, embracing a vibrant local ecosystem that includes insect-eating plants



such as sundews and butterworts.

The exceptional habitat is home to a wide range of rare and endangered plant, bird and insect species that thrive in its interlinked bog pools and peatland vegetation, including populations of golden plover, dunlin, greenshank and black-throated divers.

Golden eagles, merlin, buzzards and hen har-

riers are common in the area. It is a magnet for ornithologists.

Scientists have calculated that the Flow Country, which, like a living fossil has remained largely undisturbed for the past 7,000 years, stores around 400 million tonnes of carbon – more than all the trees, forests and woodlands in the UK put together.

Hopes are now rising that this matchless Highland habitat, stretching from the A'Mhòine peninsula in the north to Strath Brora at its southernmost tip, could become a Unesco World Heritage Site, joining the likes of the Grand Canyon and the

Continued on page 5

Clan Leslie Society, International says “Thank you David!”

David Leslie White has served Clan Leslie Society International for upwards of 18 years. He is a past Chieftain, hosted a gathering, served as convenor and tent host for the Southwest region, on the library committee and as an ex-officio to the council.

His contributions to CLSI are truly too numerous to list here. I mention this because David is retiring from CLSI after years of dedicated service.

We wish him and his wife, Beth, all the best in the coming years.

We will miss you, David! Thanks for your hard work



Chief of the Paisley Family, Duncan W. Paisley of Westerlea.

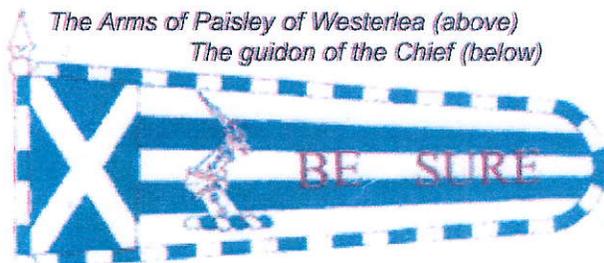
Clan Paisley Society

All Paisleys of the name or blood (and all spellings) are invited to join. Email: <dlangsto@yahoo.com>

Paisley Family Society USA Branch, FaceBook account can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/Paisley-Family-Society-USA-branch-195070730565352/>



*The Arms of Paisley of Westerlea (above)
The guidon of the Chief (below)*



Paisley Family Association

of North Carolina

president: **Don Paisley**

Email: paisley47@aol.com

Celebrating

50 years of fellowship



The Paisleys are a family of considerable antiquity, having been associated with Lochwinnoch and Paisley (parts of what later became Renfrewshire), with Cunningham and Kyle (North Ayrshire), Innerwick (East Lothian) and Roxburghshire, since the time of William I King of Scots, 1165-1214.

For the Paisley DNA Project, visit
<dlangsto@yahoo.com>

Check out the
Clan Paisley Society webpage at
<www.paisleyfamilysociety.org.uk>
to see what's happening with us this
year. Contact Diane Langston at
<dlangsto@yahoo.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/PaisleyFamilySociety>

The Flow Country, *continued from page 3*

Great Barrier Reef as areas of outstanding importance to the common heritage of humankind.

As the world's first peatland world heritage site it would be a major coup for Scotland.

Peatlands occur in 180 countries and cover 400 million hectares or 3% of the world's surface but Scotland has the greatest coverage of peatland in Europe and therefore has a vitally important role to play in protecting and maintaining our global air conditioning system.

Why the landscape of Caithness and Sutherland helps protect against climate change is explored in the programme. (BBC Scotland)

The Flow Country peatlands also act as a natural filtration system for the rivers and streams that run off and through it, providing cleaner water for wildlife and for the local population. Recognising the role of the Flow Country as one of the largest areas of blanket bog anywhere in the world, by awarding it Unesco World Heritage status, would therefore be of global significance.

The first step towards achieving this accolade was reached in 2020 when the Peatlands Partnership (now the Flow Country Partnership) submitted a technical evaluation to a panel of experts set up by the UK Government.

The panel gave its approval for the Flow Country to proceed to the next stage of the Unesco nomination process and it is now the UK's official candidate for world heritage status.

A formal nomination package to Unesco is currently in preparation. The process has involved public consultation, with many recent meetings and events taking place this spring and summer.

There are great hopes about the benefits to Caithness and Sutherland that could arise from joining such a prestigious list. At the forefront are economic benefits ranging from jobs linked to eco-tourism and opportunities for businesses resulting from recognition of a World Heritage Site "brand".

Obtaining World Heritage Site status may be an effective means to begin reversing long-term trends that have contributed to depopulation.

Of course, there are those who express caution about attracting more visitors to such an im-



portant area and, certainly, the attraction of the Flow Country to eco-tourists, wishing to stay longer and spend more money in this exceptional landscape, would be hugely increased.

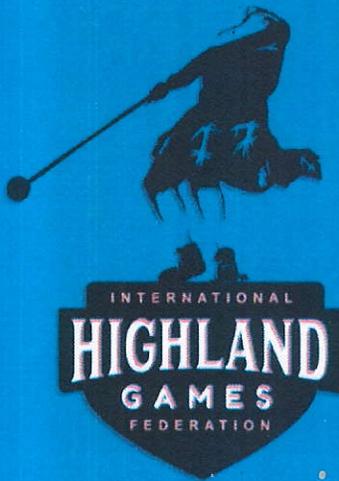
However, the greater significance of the Flow Country to Scotland, the UK, and the world is its ongoing role in the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss.

The bid will be submitted to Unesco by the UK Government at the end of this year and, following a site visit, a decision will be made in 2024.



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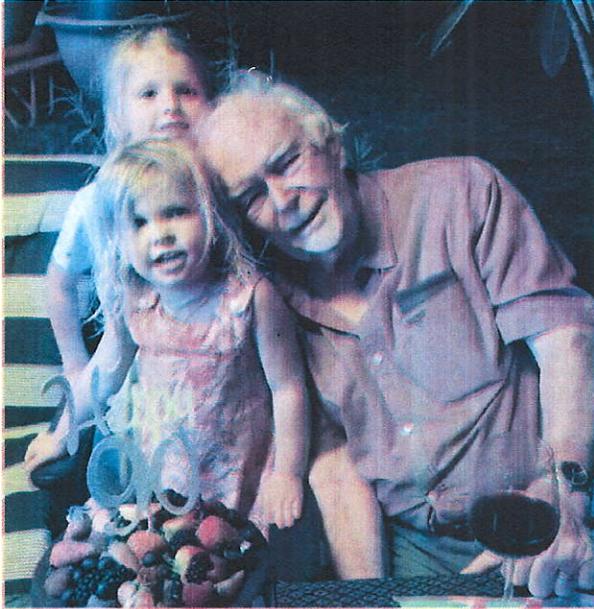
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GREAT GREAT GRANDFATHER CELEBRATING HIS 90 YEARS



On 2nd May, James William (Bill) Turnbull celebrated his 90th birthday at a family gathering in Nhulubuy, East Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory, Australia, at the home of Linda Alexander (nee Turnbull). Bill was surrounded by children, grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, with one son and a granddaughter joining in online from Brisbane and Canberra, respectively.

Bill was born in Aylsham, Kent, the son of James William Turnbull senior, originally from Northumberland, a coal miner at the Snowdown colliery, (as they say, "there was a Turnbull down every pit in the UK").

After moving to Luton in the 1950s Bill started a family and in 1966 emigrated to Australia under an immigration scheme which cost only ten pounds for the whole family to emigrate (known in Australia as "ten pound poms"). This branch of the Turnbull family is now spread far and wide over the vast expanse of Australia.

With many thanks to *The Bullseye*, the publication of the Turnbull Clan Association Worldwide.

For more information about the Turnbull Clan Association and for membership, visit <www.turnbullclan.com>.

You may also use that same website for more information about the 2023 Turnbull Clan Association Gathering in Scotland.

If you wish to go on the trip and have favorite places you'd like to see, contact the Turnbull Clan Association so that your favorites may be included in the trip!



The Turnbull Clan virtual museum is alive & well!

In 2006, TCA launched the Turnbull Clan Virtual Museum for the purpose of recording and sharing objects of interest to Turnbull from all parts of the world.

The TCA Virtual Museum is alive and well and recently has been updated, including dividing the items into relevant categories. These categories include: Art, Collectibles, Products, and Whisky.

To access the Museum items visit <<http://www.turnbullclan.com>>. Be sure to browse the Museum and learn more about our Turnbull heritage.

There is now a form that can be filled out and returned to present new items to be added to the Virtual Museum. These items should be specifically related to the Turnbull name. The form can be found at <<https://www.turnbullclan.com/vm/submit-an-item-to-the-museum>>.

In addition to the Museum, there is also a form for our *Who's Who* recognition of Turnbells and their contributions to our history and clan. Recommendations may be submitted through <<https://www.turnbullclan.com/vm/submit-a-person-to-our-who-s-who>>.

WOULD YOU LIKE FOR YOUR OWN CLAN TO BE FEATURED IN THIS PUBLICATION?

It's easy. It's possible. It's FREE.

Just send news of what your clan is doing. New projects or honors bestowed upon members are perfect items to send to <bethscribble@aol.com>. Send anything interesting and it will appear in these pages, along with how to join your clan.



Scottish Heritage USA, Inc.

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We are a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and enrichment of Scottish traditions, history and culture. We foster strong ties with the people and places of Scotland.

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**Scottish Heritage USA, Inc.,
is holding a membership drive!
If you are not a member,
now is the time to join!**



Scottish Heritage USA, Inc., Summer Membership Drive is underway now.

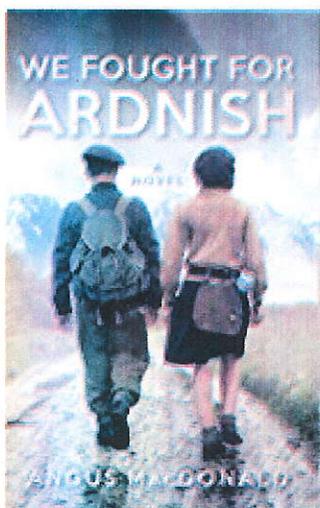
We hope to gain 120 new members by the end of August and we need the help of our existing members!

We ask you to recruit new members by talking about SHUSA to friends, suggesting a SHUSA membership as a gift for birthdays or any gifting occasion.

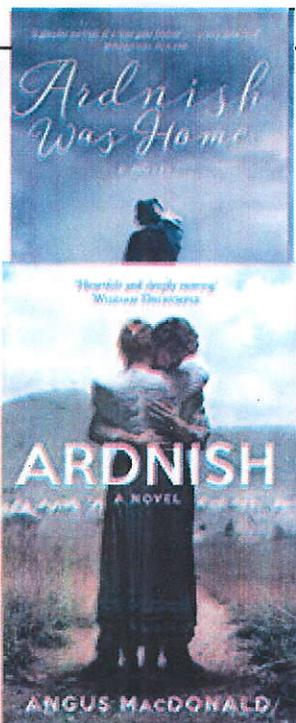
Get brochures from the SHUSA tent at Stone Mountain and Laurinburg and pass them out at the Games and beyond.

We got 27 new members at Greenville, SC Games and don't know yet about Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.

If you would like to join SHUSA now, just contact <shusa457@gmail.com> for all of the details and to join.



And the brand new
*The Secret
or Ardnish!*



**MEET
THE
AUTHOR**
*Angus
MacDonald*

Angus MacDonald lives on the West Coast of Scotland on the shores of Moidart overlooking the islands of the Inner Hebrides.

He served as officer with the Queen's Own Highlanders and was posted to the Falklands and Northern Ireland.

As a military history buff, he holds a fascination for one of the most notable Highland Regiments, the Lovat Scouts, founded in the late 19th century. The Lovat Scouts were recruited from Gaelic speaking stalkers and gamekeepers from the Highlands.

During their 60 years existence they had a role completely different from any other British Army job. They were the first to wear Ghillie suits.

After serving in the military, he made his success as an entrepreneur and businessperson, building companies in publishing, renewable energy, recycling, and education.

He passionately believes in giving something back and founded The Caledonian Challenge which has raised £15 million for charity and for which he was awarded an OBE.

He also runs The Moidart Trust, a trust fund set up to help small companies in the Highlands grow.

He thought long and hard about authoring his own novels inspired by his beloved Highlands and the curious draw of Ardnish's abandoned settlements close to his home. Based on the fictitious Gillies family his first novel, 'Ardnish Was Home,' was published in 2016 and became a bestseller.

Motivated by its success 3 further novels were published. To read more about this series of novels, or for purchasing information, go to <<https://ardnishbooks.com>>.

NEW RELEASE



The Heraldic Register of America

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY EDITION SERIES II + VOLUME 1



LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, 1 July 2022 — The American College of Heraldry proudly announces the release of the latest “cumulative” edition of a series begun in 1985, including Armorial Bearings registered with the organization since its inception. This new Series presents said Registrations in a wholly new format, with emblazonments displayed in full-color. Also included are essays from internationally-renowned Heraldic Artist and Expert Anthony Wood, NDD, FHS, FSSI, FSHA; as well as Sir Conrad Swan, KCVO, PhD, FSA, Quondam Garter Principal King of Arms; the History of Heraldry in America; the “evolution” of the emblazonments of the College’s own Armorial Bearings by numerous international heraldists; with plentiful full-colour illustrations.

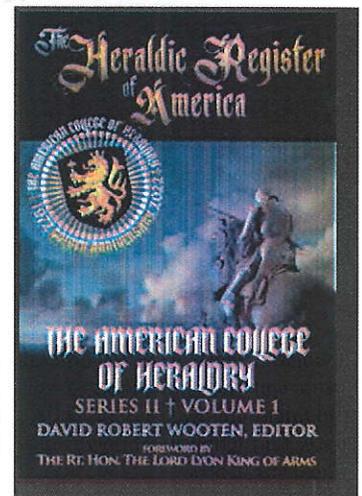
THE HERALDIC REGISTER OF AMERICA

Golden Anniversary Edition SERIES II + VOLUME 1

David Robert Wooten, Editor

372 pages, extensive full-colour photos and illustrations

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- Paperback, on standard white paper in bold full colour. ISBN: 979-8-8315-5675-9
- Also in eBook for Kindle and other standard readers. ASIN: B0B4X1PYDB



From the Foreword by Dr Joseph J Morrow, CBE, QC, FRSE
The Right Honourable The Lord Lyon, King of Arms

“The contents of the Golden Anniversary Heraldic Register of America will significantly increase the knowledge of heraldry. The publication also reflects not only the founding of the College in New Orleans, but more importantly its spread through these 50 years to the United States of America and beyond. The work of the American College of Heraldry is valued worldwide and is held as an example by organisations such as the Court of the Lord Lyon.

“The work of the American College of Heraldry is welcomed and valued, as it continues to promote in our time the living art and science of heraldry. This publication is to be saluted in its achievement and for what it adds to the knowledge and promotion of heraldry.

“The heraldic heritage of the United States greatly contributes to heraldic heritage worldwide, for this publication concerns not only your heritage, but the future of heraldry from without your own nation.”

At the very least, who should have a copy of this book?

- Those who Registered Armorial Bearings with the College from September 2009 through June 2022;
- Those individuals interested in both the history and present state of heraldry in the United States;
- Those considering designing their own Armorial Bearings; and
- Those interested in the broad variety of design options available within the field of heraldry

HERALDRY is at once both an art and a science. Its origins are rooted in the social and political structure which existed in Europe and the British Isles from about the year 1100 AD. However, far from being an obsolete relic of a bygone era, heraldry has rather emerged as a vibrant and growing cultural form. Legitimate coats of arms are more widely used throughout the world today than ever before in history.

A large and rapidly growing number of Americans rightfully bear Coats of Arms. Many of these were Granted, Certified, Registered, or otherwise recognized by armorial authorities abroad, and a sizable number of these have been Registered by these Armigers with The American College of Heraldry. In addition, the College has assisted many persons in designing new Armorial Achievements for their use which are then properly Registered and published. It is the College’s hope that this Golden Anniversary Edition of The Heraldic Register of America will serve not only as an informational publication, but also as an inspiration to potential American Armigers — by way of hundreds of examples of what is possible in the 21st century world of heraldry and beyond.

This book is currently being released exclusively through Amazon. COPIES MAY BE PURCHASED AT <https://amzn.to/3Okjgg7>.

For information about special discounts for bulk purchases, as well as information about reproducing selections from this book, please email info@americancollegeofheraldry.org, or visit The American College of Heraldry’s various online locations:

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The American-Scottish Foundation
The Burns Society of New York

Sunset Tea Wind & Pimms

on the Arsenal Rooftop
in Central Park

August 9, 2022

5:30 pm Talk

6:30 pm Roof Top Garden Reception

The American-Scottish Foundation & Burns Society of NY invite you to our Annual Sunset Tea of Wine & Pimms on Tuesday August 9th, at the Arsenal Central Park, 830 Fifth Avenue, New York.

ASF & Burns Society of NY Members \$40 Non Members \$50 :

Tickets go on sale shortly. Call the ASF office on (929) 499-9025 or email: americanscottishfoundation@gmail.com if you have any questions

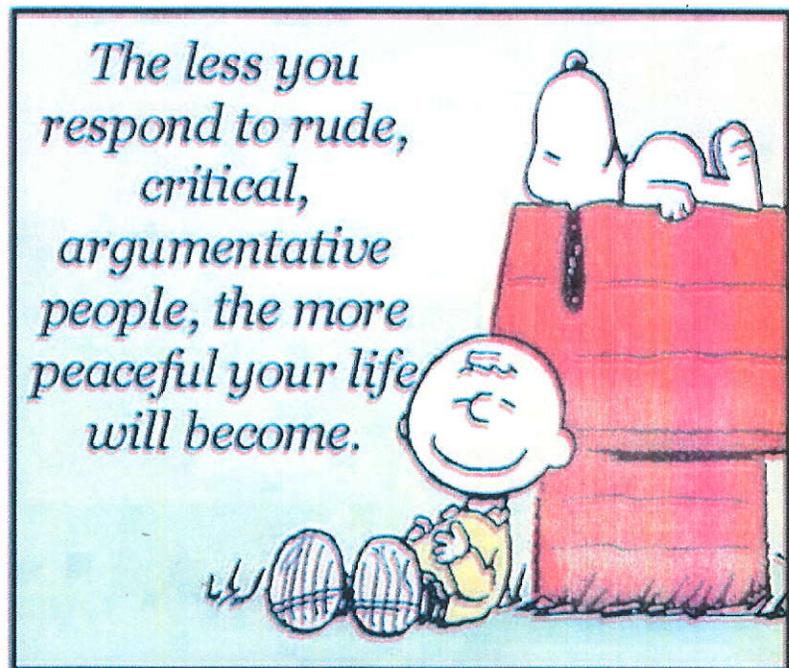
NOTE: Not yet a Member? Become a Member and attend the Sunset Tea free!

PRICELESS AND MUCH NEEDED TO KEEP OUR BALANCE IN THESE TRYING TIMES!

You might like to recall October 3, 1950 *Peanuts* first debuted in seven newspapers under the United Features Syndicate. Developed by Charles M. Schulz, who was raised in Minneapolis and Saint Paul, Minnesota. "Peanuts" ran for nearly 50 years and was published in 2,600 newspapers, 75 countries and 21 languages.

Take a moment to look at this gem of wisdom from good old Charles Schultz, simply wonderful!

From your editor: Snoopy has been my guru all of my life.



Day 12 without chocolate. Lost hearing in my left eye.

My friend, Carol

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TRACING RAILROAD WORKING ANCESTORS NOW!

Beginners Level Article

Bryan L. Mulcahy, MLS

Railroads became the primary mode of transportation in the United States from the 1820s through the 1940s.

Railroads were the fastest and safest mode of transportation during this era to carry our ancestors and their goods across the country. Historians regard railroads as being America's first large-scale business which, because it was labor intensive, employed millions.

By 1920, one in every 50 Americans were employed by the railroads. Railroad construction also attracted thousands of immigrants, including Chinese, Germans, Italians, and Irish laborers.

The majority of historical records related to individual railroad workers have not survived. While this can make the task of tracing ancestors something of a challenge, it is not impossible.

Researchers can locate ancestors in the historical record collections of individual railroad companies that are available at multiple repositories in several states and online resources.

Step One: Identify where he/she lived at the time of railroad employment. Historical maps and published county, state, or railroad histories can assist in helping identify what railroad lines ran through that area at the time. From there you need to dig into the history of the specific railroads to locate present owners and determine whether employee records still exist for the era and where they are located.

Step Two: Locating online resources and repositories. State archives, railroad museums, genealogical/historical societies, and University Libraries are common repositories for historical rail-

road collections.

The records tend to be scattered which complicates the issue.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company provides a perfect example of how scattered some of these surviving records can be. Surviving information is located in the research collections of 11 repositories. The most detailed information is at the three repositories listed below:

Penn State University – Historical Collection and Labor Archives
< <https://guides.libraries.psu.edu/parailroads> >

Harvard University – Baker Library
< <https://www.library.hbs.edu/hc/railroads/research-links/railroad-records.html> >

University of Michigan – Bentley Library

<<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/b/bhlead/umich-bhl-87400>>

Additional online resources of interest include the following:

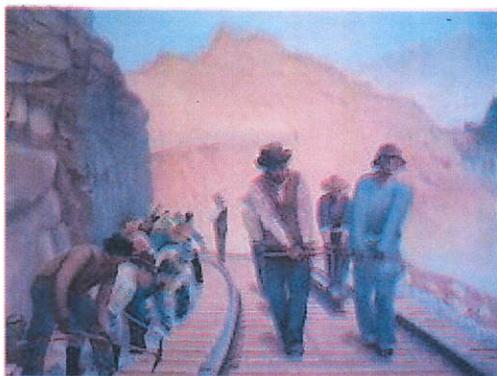
Archives of Appalachia – Railroads

Their Website is useful for ancestors who worked or traveled aboard the Carolina, Clinchfield and Ohio Railway and the East Tennessee and Western North Carolina Railroad.

<<https://collections.library.appstate.edu/research-assistance>> (East Tennessee State University)

Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Museum

Partial records of Baltimore & Ohio Railroad employees between 1905 and 1971 are available from the collection of the Hays T. Watkins Research



Continued on page 15

The
Clan Macneil
 Association of America

If you are a Macneil or any of the following "Sept Names" then you have found the clan you have been searching for.



"O'n D'thainig thu."

Remember the men from whom you have come.

The Clan Macneil President: Kenneth McNeil,
 3920 N. St. Joseph Ave., Evansville, IN 47720-1203
 <mckennypam.1203@hotmail.com>

- | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| * Macneil | * Mcniel | * Niell | * McGougan |
| * MacNeil | * McNiel | * O'Neal | * McGrail |
| * Macniel | * Mcneill | * O'Neil | * McGraill |
| * MacNiel | * McNeill | * O'Niel | * Mcgrail |
| * Macneill | * Mcneal | * O'Neill | * Mcgrail |
| * MacNeill | * McNeale | * Oneil | * McGugan |
| * MacNeillie | * McNeilage | * Oneill | * Macgugan |
| * Macneal | * Mcneilage | * Nelson | * McGuigan |
| * MacNeal | * McNelly | * Neilson | ...and |
| * Macneale | * Mcnelly | * Nielson | * Mcguigan |
| * MacNeilage | * McNeally | * MacGougan | |
| * Macneilage | * Mcneally | * Macgougan | |
| * MacNelly | * Neil | * Macgrail | |
| * Macnelly | * Neal | * MacGugan | |
| * MacNeally | * Neall | * Macgugan | |
| * Macneally | * Neale | * MacGuigan | |
| * Mcneil | * Neill | * Macguigan | |
| * McNeil | * Niel | * McGougan | |



Tracing Railroad workers, *continued from page 13*

Library at the B&O Railroad Museum.

These records consist of several thousand individual payroll records, which give the person's name, date of birth, job title, division, department, station, salary (sometimes), and subsequent changes in the job or salary, including date of retirement, resignation, or dismissal, and in some instances, date of death.

You can submit a request online for research queries.

Use <https://www.borail.org/explore-learn/collections/archives-library/>

Boston and Maine Railroad Historical Archives

Housed at the University of Massachusetts, the archives preserves histories of the Boston & Maine and other New England railroads. <https://www.bmrrhs.org/online-archives> The railroad's 1960 merger with the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad is helpful. Many of the indexes

provide each person's first and last name, position and location (or division), as well as other bits of information. For example, the accident-report index includes the date and type of accident.

<https://freepages.rootsweb.com/~sponholz/genealogy/erie.html>

National Archives – Atlanta Branch – Railroad Retirement Records

Professionals consider this website to be the most direct and efficient option to trace ancestors who worked on railroads in the period after 1930 to the present.

Please provide as much of the following information about the claimant or pensioner as possible: First Name, Middle Name/Initial, Last Name; Railroad Retirement Board Claim Number; Social

Security Number; Year of Birth; and Year of Death

Visit: <https://www.archives.gov/atlanta/public/railroad-retirement-board-records>

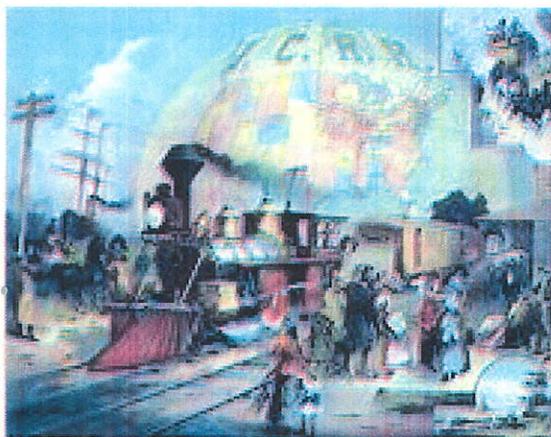
Rail Road Genealogy Society

The society collects American and Canadian railroad records, and will search them for your ancestor's name for a fee.

RRGS has records from the Missouri-Kansas-Texas and Louisville and Nashville railroads. <https://www.rrgs.org/>

Railroads in North America: Railroad History and Genealogy Database – Milton C. Hallberg – Penn State University. Milton C. Hallberg has

compiled a free database of basic information on over 6,900 railroads, including currently existing mainline and switching and terminal railroads, as well as of all operating railroads that have existed in the United States and Canada since the first railroad—the Granite Railway—was chartered in Massachusetts



in 1826.

<http://www.personal.psu.edu/faculty/m/c/mch/railroad/>

Riding the Rails up Paper Mountain: Researching Records in the National Archives

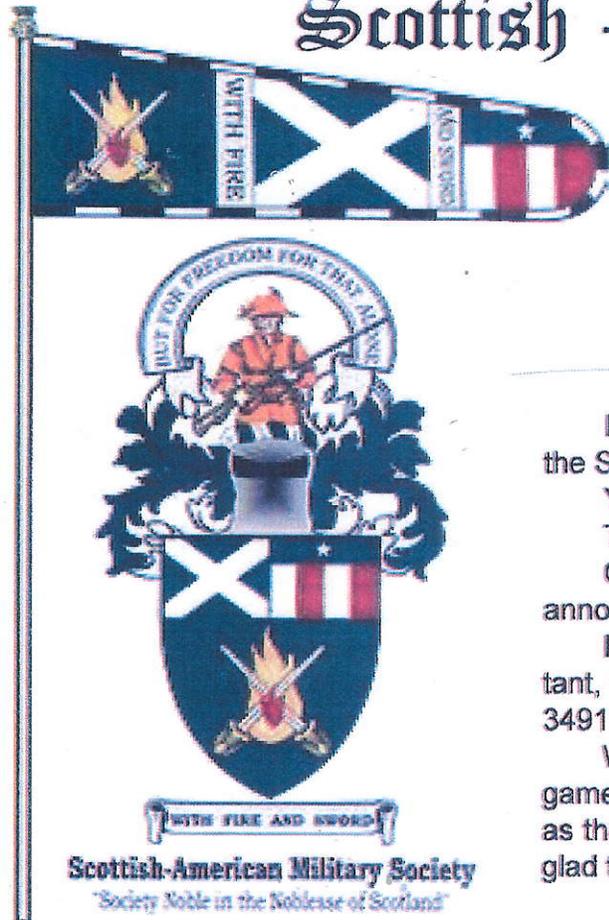
David A. Pfeiffer explores the wealth of historical railroad records available through the National Archives & Records Administration (NARA) in this Prologue article.

Content discusses railroad valuation records, railroad accident reports, annual reports of railroad companies, patent application files and other railroad-related records. In spite of the dated year of publication, the information is just as relevant to-

Continued on page 19

Scottish - American Military Society

General Elijah Clark Post #60



If you are a veteran of Celtic heritage, you can join the Scottish - American Military Society.

You can visit our webpage for more information.

The webpage is <<http://www.s-a-m-s.org/>>

Our meeting times, dates and places are to be announced as soon as it is possible.

In the meantime, please contact Rick Conn, Adjutant, General Elijah Clark Post #60. Call 1-676-873-3491 or visit his email at <rickconn@bellsouth.net>

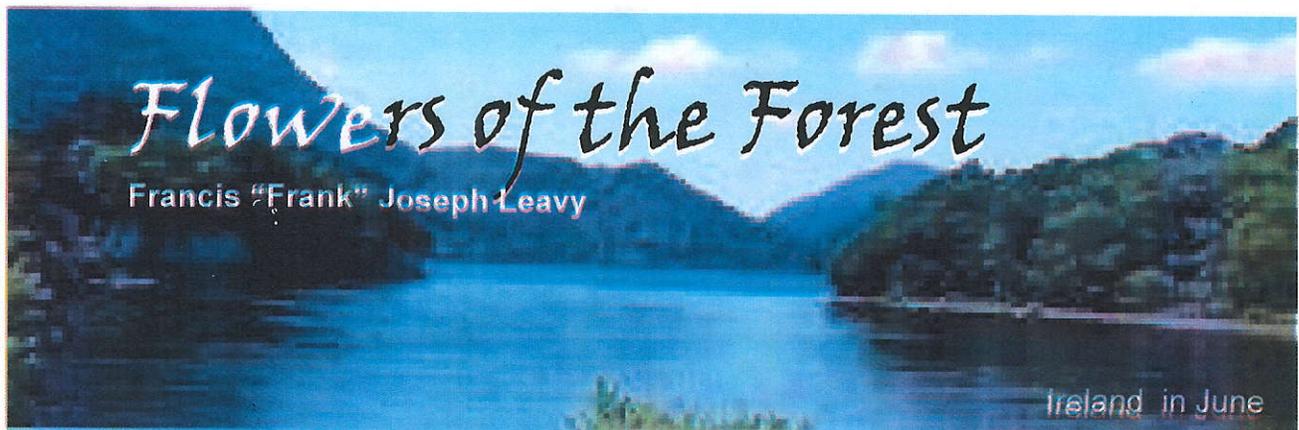
When the Scottish Games start again, visit a games and look for the SAMS unit, which usually acts as the flagbearers for the event. Any of them will be glad to talk to you.



Scottish - American Military Society



If you would like information on joining the Scottish - American Military Society, please contact: **Rick Conn**, Adjutant, General James Jackson Post #60, 2683 Brocklin Drive, Grayson, GA 30017 -1432. Telephone **678-873-3491**. Email: <rickconn@bellsouth.net> <<http://www.s-a-m-s.org/>>



Francis "Frank" Joseph Leavy, 94, of Scottsdale, Arizona joined his beloved wife Eileen in eternal rest on June 29, 2022.

He is survived by his seven children: Anthony (Alisa), Michael (Susan), John J. (Renee), Patricia (Hugh Dearing) Meloy, Kevin (Amber), Dennis (Cynthia), and Denise (David) Decker; his eighteen grandchildren, seventeen great-grandchildren and many nieces & nephews.

Frank was born in Ballyboggen, Co. Meath, Ireland on April 11, 1928 and was educated by the Christian Brothers.

He began a career in the meat industry with his family in Dublin, Ireland. It was there Frank married his darling Eileen in 1950 and the two immigrated to the United States in 1953, settling in Marshalltown, Iowa.

There they operated Leavy Brother's Meat Company with Frank's brothers Jim and Tom.

Frank later joined Marshall Packing Company and was instrumental in their growth as a Sales Manager.

Frank was dedicated to the betterment of his community through his involvement in organizations such as St. Mary's Church, little league activities, his work with the Knights of Columbus and Toastmasters.

In 1979 Frank and Eileen moved to Scottsdale, Arizona and expanded the family business, Harvest Meat Company. The company flourished and



they began turning daily operations over to their sons.

As a result, Frank and Eileen started traveling back home to Ireland, including the family farm where his wife was born.

This success also blessed them with the joy of owning an Irish racehorse named "Go On Eileen", a lifelong dream of Frank's.

Back home in Scottsdale, Frank and Eileen immersed themselves in the local Irish culture, helping to organize Phoenix's first St. Patrick's Day parade, along with many other community functions throughout the years.

Frank was a dedicated parishioner at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church for forty-three years, serving as a member of the Shepherd's Circle in the Diocese of Phoenix. He was an Arizona Food and Marketing Alliance Hall-of-Famer, a longtime "friend" of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and an Irish Cultural & Learning Foundation Emeritus Trustee.

A very special project Frank has passionately thrown himself into over the last two decades was assisting with the restoration of the ancient ancestral cemetery in Croboy, Ireland.

The cemetery was in a state of disrepair at the turn of the century, but now with the help of local friends and family, has been restored, becoming a destination to experience Irish history.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Frank's honor to the Irish Cultural Center & McClelland Library, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church & School, or the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Continued on page 19

Clan Blair Society



Memberships are cordially invited
for Blair descendants and other
interested parties.

www.clanblair.org

President, Clan Blair Society
Shawn Blair
Email: <weblaird@clanblair.org>

Vice President, Jim Blair
Email: <vicepresz@clanblair.org>

Membership Chairman,
Charles Diman

3413 Synnybrook Drive, Charlotte, NC 28210-4715 ClanMembership@clanblair.org



Clan Blair



Tracing Railroad workers, continued from page 15

day.

<<https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1997/spring/railroad-records-1.html>>
St. Louis-San Francisco Railroad Library

(Also known as the Frisco)

The records span the late 1800s to World War II, and contain more than 500 names.

Look for your ancestor's name in the site's alphabetical listing of Frisco papers. Each entry includes the worker's name, position and location; the date on the document; the nature and source of the letter, and other information.

Be sure to search the photographs and Frisco news-clippings databases, as well. <<https://thelibrary.org/lochist/frisco/about.cfm>>

United States Railroad Retirement Board

Established in the mid-1930s, this agency administers federal retirement benefits to the nation's railroad workers and their families.

For a fee, the agency will look up the records for anyone who worked for the railroads (excluding temporary workers) after 1937 and is now deceased.

Though the agency does not have pre-1937 railroad records, it provides links to repositories

Frank Leavy, continued from page 19

To support the Croboy Cemetery Foundation, you may purchase Frank's Family Memoir, *From Humble Beginnings*, with all proceeds to go to Croboy Cemetery.

A visitation was held on Thursday, July 7, 2022 at Messinger Mortuary. A Funeral Mass was held at 10am on Friday, July 8, 2022 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Frank was interred alongside his wife, Eileen, at St. Francis Catholic Cemetery following a short reception.

that do. Some researchers recommend trying the National Archive site first since it is easier to navigate. <<https://rrb.gov/faq#ContactUs>>

You might like to use: <<https://rrb.gov/Benefits/RB3/GeneralInformation>>

Virginia Tech University Image Database

Select the term "railroad" to explore tens of thousands of historic digitized images relating to old railroads, from photographs of trails and railway yards to timetables and advertisements. There are even photographs of some railroad employees.

<<https://imagebase.lib.vt.edu/>>

For more information on this topic, my supplemental study guide will go into greater detail with additional sources that include materials in our genealogy room print collection and adult non-fiction holdings on the topics of railroad history. Feel free to stop by and we can show the materials in person.

Bryan L. Mulcahy
Reference/Genealogy Librarian
Fort Myers Regional Library
bmulcahy@leegov.com



When Anais Bordier saw a YouTube video of Samantha Futerman, who looked exactly like her, she Facebook messaged her and discovered they were both adopted and born on the same day. They were identical twins, separated at birth, who'd found each other through happenstance and social media.

Are you an **Arthur, Carter,
MacArthur, McArthur** or similar
name? If so, you can become a member
of the **Clan Arthur Association!**



Clan Arthur is worldwide with branches in UK, USA, Canada & Australia. Our leader is **Chief John MacArthur of that ilk.**

We welcome new members who are of "Arthur" decent or those interested in our clan who are prepared to be loyal to our Chief. Membership includes a quarterly magazine which is full of stories about the Clan around the world, articles on current events, ancestry & history. Members also receive ongoing newsletters & updates on local happenings within their community.

For information and how to join, see our website: [<https://clanarthur.org/>](https://clanarthur.org/)

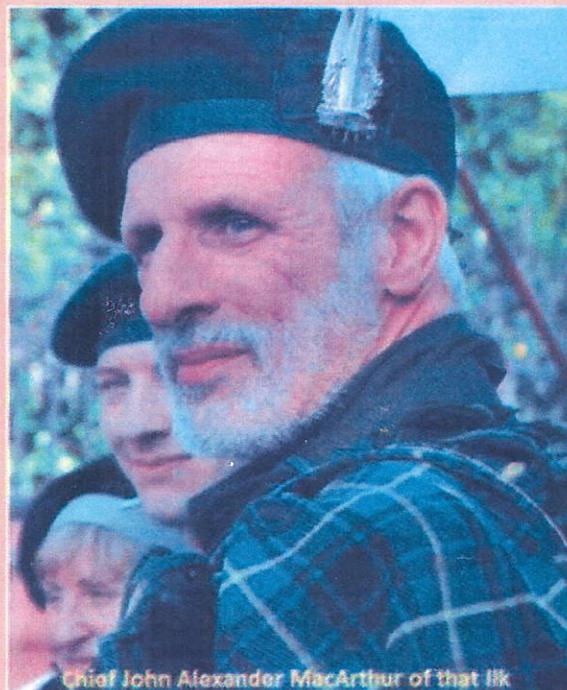
Contacts:

UK: Chief John & Lorraine MacArthur arthurofthatilk@btinternet.com

USA: Joann Helmich causamembership@gmail.com

Canada: Lloyd K. McArthur mcartld@shaw.ca

Australia/NZ: Carol MacArthur Budlong carolmcarthur18@gmail.com



Chief John Alexander MacArthur of that ilk

Loads of visitors, no staff: Tourism industry 45,000 workers short

THE SUNDAY POST Sally McDonald

A staffing crisis in Scotland's tourism industry could force many operators out of business, trade experts fear.

The country is readying for a bumper season as international flights edge back to pre-pandemic levels, cruise ships are once again in demand and many staycationers look to enjoy holidays cancelled during lockdown.

That's the good news. The bad? The industry is about 45,000 workers short, meaning hotels, restaurants and attractions are struggling to cope and many are having to cut their services and hours to stay operational.

Visitors are urged to plan ahead and book because spare capacity for "drop-in" rooms and restaurant tables could be much more limited than before Covid and Brexit.

Chief executive of the Scottish Tourism Alliance Marc Crothall, who sits on the Scottish Tourism Emergency Response Group (Sterg) tasked with steering the industry out of the pandemic, said: "We are now faced with a dilemma. Where we have opened the doors again, we have reasonable demand and obligation to bookings that were made before the pandemic.

"The cruise sector is 85% back in demand. The signs are of a buoyant recovery in the American market and the air routes are returning as well but, unfortunately, we have a 45,000-people hole

in the workforce because of the combination of Covid and Brexit."

Asked if Scotland's tourism businesses will survive, he said: "Some won't, that's the brutal fact."

Before the pandemic, in 2019, there were 220,000 people working in the Scottish tourism industry, according to Skills Development Scotland data. European workers, who were the backbone of Scotland's hotels, restaurants, and tourist attractions, left for home during lockdown's furlough schemes and did not or could not return. Classed as unskilled labour, they are required to go through a lengthy and costly visa process to work in the

UK. Many don't bother and opt for the ease of accessing work elsewhere in Europe. Others, according to tourism chiefs, no longer feel welcome in the UK.

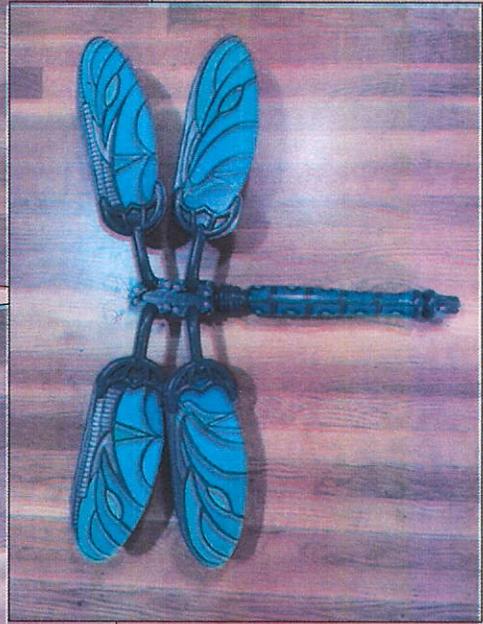
The sector has significantly increased its average pay rate to attract and compete for staff, according to Crothall. It is also looking at other measures to bolster its workforce. For example, Skye hotelier and voluntary director of tourism body SkyeConnect Gary Curley has launched an employee assistance programme that includes coun-



Continued on page 23

For artwork with a quirky sense of humor... Call Keets

Currently offering Dragonflies in two sizes 49 5/8 x 30 inches and 32 1/2 x 29 1/2 inches acrylic on fan blades and repurposed table leg. Purchase Dragonflies or commission your inspirational dragonfly in the artwork and colors that are meaningful to you. Background may vary by commission; showing here Plum Brown, Chocolate Brown, and Black.



In response to a commission request to develop a smaller dragonfly for smaller apartment living ... voila ... at 2/3 the size, we have this sweet little 32 1/2 x 29 1/2 inch cutie.

selling and legal advice, offers accommodation and pays the top end of the real living wage.

But migration and visa bureaucracy is dissuading European staff from applying to work in the UK. Leon Thompson, executive director of UKHospitality Scotland whose members run more than 7,000 venues across the country from large hotels and restaurant chains to pub groups, said businesses would be forced to reduce their service as a result of staff shortages. He said: "A lot of EU nationals applied for UK settled status but the pandemic disrupted that. They headed back to their own countries and haven't returned to Scotland because there is work available in the EU, which is perceived as being more welcoming of migrant labour. But in Scotland we have businesses desperate for EU nationals to work here, particularly in rural areas.

"Without a workforce, businesses are having to restrict the number of hours they are open. Some hotels are not offering 100% occupancy, while some restaurants are keeping the number of covers lower.

"The frustrating thing is businesses coming out of the pandemic need to trade at optimum level to make money because they accumulated a lot of unprecedented debt over the pandemic. Some are looking at a 200% rise in the costs and there is a limit to what you can pass on to a customer before they no longer see value for money in their purchases. But the staffing issue is a fundamental challenge because if you don't have the workers you can't deliver the service and make the money needed in order to keep going."

His members are now trying to attract the

over-50s and people with disabilities into the sector and are pushing for an extension to the international Youth Mobility Visa, which allows 18 to 30-year-olds to apply to live and work in the UK for two years, to 27 EU countries. Europeans are currently not eligible to apply. Thompson said: "Labour coming from overseas is vital for any economy that wants to grow, hospitality is not alone in trying to manage these staffing challenges. Although we are possibly an extreme case."

Gordon Morrison, who heads the Association of Scottish Visitor Attractions, representing about 500 destinations in Scotland, said: "In our sector, depending on where you were in the county, up to one in five of the workforce were migrants.

"Brexit meant they did not feel welcome in the UK but that is not the case for Scotland."

Outer Hebrides Tourism chief executive Sarah MacLean said: "There is absolutely a staffing crisis in the hos-

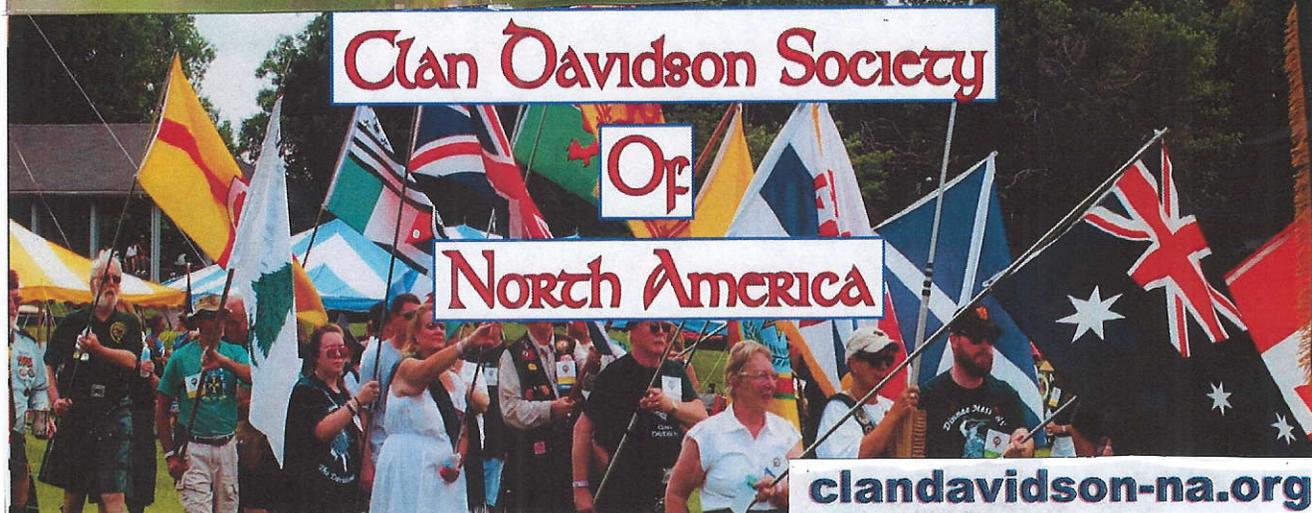
pitality sector locally. We are expecting a busy season, bookings and enquiries through our Visit Hebrides site are very healthy but we already know a number of key businesses are having to limit opening hours and their overall offering."

Crothall said that, despite its challenges, the Scottish tourism industry is open for business but advised those who want to "eat, stay and play", it's best to pre-plan and book direct with operators in advance.

He said: "The ability to drop in ad hoc for a tour space, or a seat in a restaurant or a hotel booking won't be like it used to be. So pre-plan and pre-book. Scotland will definitely be open."



Clan Davidson Society of North America



Is your name listed here? If so, then you may be interested in membership in the Clan Davidson Society of North America.

Davey	Davisson	Dea	Dee	Dhai	Key	MacDade	MacDavid
Davie	Davy	Dean	Desson	Dow	Keys	MacDagnie	MacDavitt
Davidson	Daw	Deane	Devette	Dye	Key	MacDagny	MacDhai
Davis	Dawson	Deas	Dewis	Dyson	Keys	MacDaid	MacKay
Davison	Day	Deason	Dey	Kay	MacAdie	MacDavett	McKeddie

The Clan Davidson Society of North America is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit corporation recognized by the US IRS as a 501 c(3) Educational and Charitable organization. We are dedicated to the preservation of our rich Scottish and Clan Heritage. CDS-NorAm publishes an award-winning, electronic, full color newsmagazine of 40-60 pages twice a year, packed with informative articles and photos of interest both to Davidson Clansmen as well as anyone interested in the history and culture of Scotland.

The Society's on-Staff Genealogist is the Founder of the Davidson/Davison DNA Project and is available at no charge to assist the membership with their own genealogical excavations.

For more information, check out our website at <clandavidson.org> or contact the Society's Membership Registrar at <sennachie@earthlink.net>.



A sea of Ramsay Blue at Loch Norman Games 2022

Cooler temperatures brought out the Ramsay Blue capes at Loch Norman this year.

Front row, see John Ramsay, Kathy Seeley, MaryAlice Ramsey, Dee Seeley, Sue Ann Ramsey and David Ramsey.

Second row Dick McGraw, Mona Ramsey, Ronda Ramsey Shackelford, Bob Ramsey, Bobbie McGraw and Sue Ramsay.

Romance is in the air at Clan Ramsay International, Inc.



Covid delayed our wedding by a couple of years, but we finally did it!

Ramsey-Palkowetz wedding

Taking advantage of the scenic location of that weekend's Sherman Celtic Festival, Mike Ramsey and Sharon Palkowetz invited neighboring clans and family and friends to attend their Scottish themed wedding in a grove of trees on the festival grounds.

Sharon wore a dress sewn for her by a friend that is a replica of the one worn by Eowyn in *Lord of the Rings*.

Mike and son, Stephen, wore Ramsay Red

tartan kilts.

Mike's mother, Barbara Shaw Ramsey, pinned a Ramsay Red sash on Sharon and tied a Ramsay Red handfasting cloth around Mike's and Sharon's hands.

A piper and a drummer from the Sherman Police Department

Continued on page 27

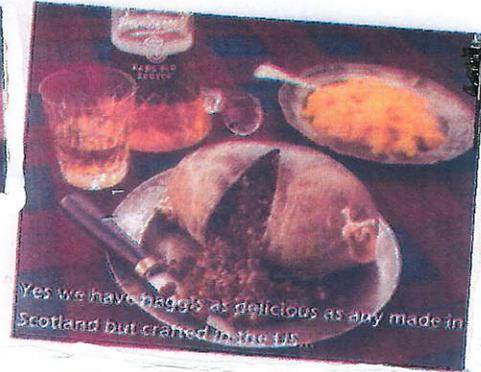
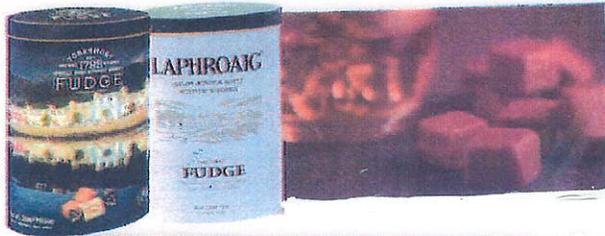
Congratulations on your Engagement



Philip Ramsay, from Lexington, KY, proposed to his long-time girlfriend, Annie Gerhart this April while on vacation in Italy.

The Scottish Grocer®

The Scottish Grocer (founded 1997) is a supplier of specialty foods, beverages and candies made in Scotland. All orders are shipped from Charlotte, NC.



Yes we have haggis as delicious as any made in Scotland but craned in the US...



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OF FOOD & DRINK

www.thescottishgrocer.com if you will include "BNFT 2022" with your order!

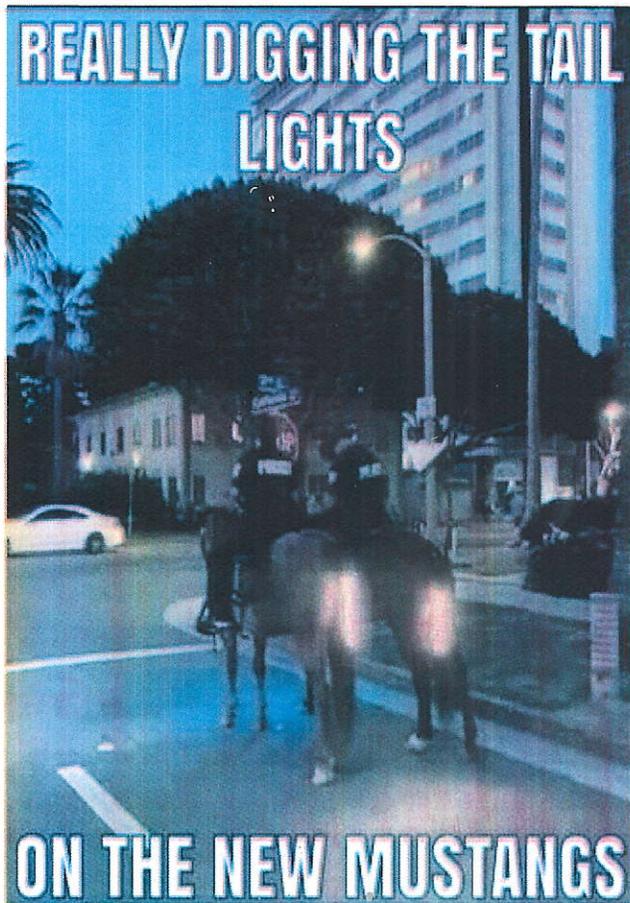
BNFT readers! You will get 10% off

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if you will include "BNFT 2022" with your order!



BNFT readers! You will get 10% off your merchandise from The Scottish Grocer if you will include "BNFT 2022" with your order.



Your editor could not resist the above!

Wedding, continued from page 25 —————

Pipes and Drums, whose official uniform includes Ramsay Blue kilts, played three tunes for the ceremony, opening with *The High Road to Airloch*. While accompanying Sharon from the Clan Ramsay tent to the ceremony, they played her favorite, *The Skye Boat Song*. At the end of the ceremony, they performed *Teribus*.

Also accompanying Sharon to the ceremony was our friend, Sean, a member of the 501st Squadron, a Star Wars cosplay group who are regulars at festivals. He granted Sharon's wish that he be a part of their ceremony in full Tie Fighter Pilot regalia.

The closing blessing read by Mike and Sharon to the audience was the familiar *May the Road Rise Up to Meet You*.

After the ceremony, champagne and cupcakes were served in the Clan Ramway tent, as the sun set at our backs and a blood red full moon rose over the tent.



The Duke of Gloucester with heritage officer Rob Longworth.

Trimontium Museum in Melrose officially reopened

On 21 April 2022, the Duke of Gloucester officially opened the newly refurbished Trimontium Museum in Melrose.

21 April, an auspicious day in the Roman calendar recognized as the birthday of Rome, was a fitting date to reopen the Trimontium Museum, which houses one of the finest collections of Roman military objects on display anywhere in the UK.

The Duke of Gloucester, Patron of the Trimontium Trust was joined by invited guests and supporters of this latest chapter in the Trimontium story to unveil a plaque marking the occasion.

Celebrations were held in Abbey House gardens which included Antonine Guard members marching around Melrose, the Time Bandits living history group telling stories relating to Trimontium, and family activities led by volunteers from the museum.

Trimontium Museum is now open daily for the spring and summer, with an online booking system which also allows for drop-in visitors.



FLYING HERALDRY



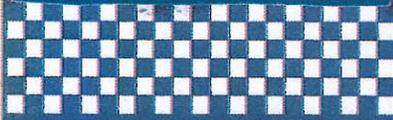
Heraldic banners, standards, pennons, pinsels, gonfalons, et., suitable for interior & exterior use. Constructed of superior materials which feature the optimum characteristics of easy flight & long term durability. Depending on the intricacy of your design, you may choose from printed or appliqued styles. Attachment by grommets, pole sleeves with leather tabs or clip & toggle. Poles, stands & fringe to suit your needs. Rush orders available as scheduling permits. For more information:

Thomas Freeman,

JSA Scot

trf@cockspurherald.com

706-839-3881



Lesser Known Scottish Festivals and Feast Days



Standfast Magazine, Clan Grant Scotland

Jill Standing

11 January - Burning of the Clavie

In Burghead, Morayshire. A tar barrel is filled with tarsoaked wood shavings and is carried around the harbour, and up to the Doorie Hill, where the Celtic Druids used to light their fires.

2 February – Candlemas Day

One of the Scottish legal “Quarter Days”, when rents and other payments fall due. Candlemas began as a Roman festival to celebrate the return of spring.

“If Candlemas Day be bright and fair
Half the winter is to come and mair
(more)

If Candlemas Day be dark and foul,
Half the winter was over at Yowl
(Christmas)”

25 March – Original New Year

The Celtic New Year was celebrated on Samhain (November 1). Then, and until 1600, the Gregorian Calendar which was used in Scotland, placed New Year on 25 March.

1 April – Hunt the Gowk

This was the day people played tricks and told lies to catch each other out, and originally they would send someone on a foolish errand. The jokes had to stop at mid-day. This is now acknowledged as April Fool’s Day.

2 April – Preen-tail Day or Taillie Day

The day following All Fools Day, people would attach paper tails to the backs of unsus-

pecting people, as a joke.

1 May - Beltane Day

Another “Quarter Day” – A pagan fire festival dating back to pre-Christian times. To encourage crops to grow. The ancient Druidic Fire Festival is held on historic Calton Hill in Edinburgh.

15 August – Marymas

Traditionally, a bannock (cake) was toasted on the fire in honour of the Virgin Mary.

20 September – Michaelmas Day

St. Michael was the patron saint of the sea and sailors, and this saint’s day was particularly celebrated in the West of Scotland. On the island of Barra, a bannock was baked from the first grain of the year and eaten on this day, with everyone being given a piece to eat.

11 November – Martinmas

The last “Quarter Day” when rents and contracts fell due. Fodder would become scarce by this time of year so cattle were often killed and the offal was mixed with oatmeal to make haggis, with the blood used to make black puddings.

Christmas Eve – Sowans Nicht

Sowans is a dish made from oat husks and fine meal steeped in water. Branches of a Rowan tree were burnt on Christmas Eve to signify that any bad feelings between friends or relatives had been put aside.

The Armstrong Clan Society

Dedicated to the Armstrongs,
Crosiers, Fairbairns, Grosiers, Nixons
and those interested in those surnames.

The Armstrong Clan Society was organized on October 8, 1981 and is incorporated in the State of Georgia, USA. The Society is recognized as a Section 501 (c) (3) not for profit organization and exempt from the United States Federal Income Taxes.

On September 24, 1984, the Lord Lyon, King of Arms in Scotland, granted warrant to the Lyon Clerk to matriculate in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland in the name of the Armstrong Clan Society, Inc., the Coat of Arms to the right of this paragraph. Our motto "Semper Invictus" can be translated as "Always Unconquered."



Objectives of the Armstrong Clan Society

1. To seek friendship and unity among all Armstrongs, its septs and associated families. 2. To provide for the preservation of all armstrong artifacts unique to the family. 3. To serve as a genealogical and historical resource for the membership and the general public. 4. To provide news, Armstrong history, items of general interest and genealogy via our newsletter, *The Armstrong Chronicles*. 5. To establish worldwide geographic membership representation.

Membership

All Armstrongs, Croziers, Fairbairns, Grosiers and Nixons (regardless of the spelling and their descendants, are eligible for full membership in the Armstrong Clan Society. In the United States and Canada, dues are \$25 per year or \$45 for two years. All memberships include two adults and all minor children. In other countries, dues are \$35 per year. All dues are payable in US funds.



For membership application, email **Janet Armstrong** at <jdumeyer@hotmail.com> or download from <<http://www.armstrong.org/membership.htm>>. Note, "spouse" on the application includes: spouse, domestic partner or any other adult living at the same address.

To contact the Armstrong Clan Society president, **Chris Armstrong** at <chrisarmys@gmail.com>. Ceud Mile Failte (100,000 welcomes) to you!

The latest news about Finlay

The latest news from Scottish Wildcat Haven <<https://www.wildcathaven.com/news>>

We are very relieved and pleased to let you know that we are seeing signs of improvement in Finlay but we have been told by vets that it may take him months to recover his condition, such has been the level of deterioration.

His condition is still so poor that it is not even deemed fit enough to be wormed due to the impact and strain this may put on his digestive system.

This makes us deeply upset and angry but we are putting all of our energy into his recovery.

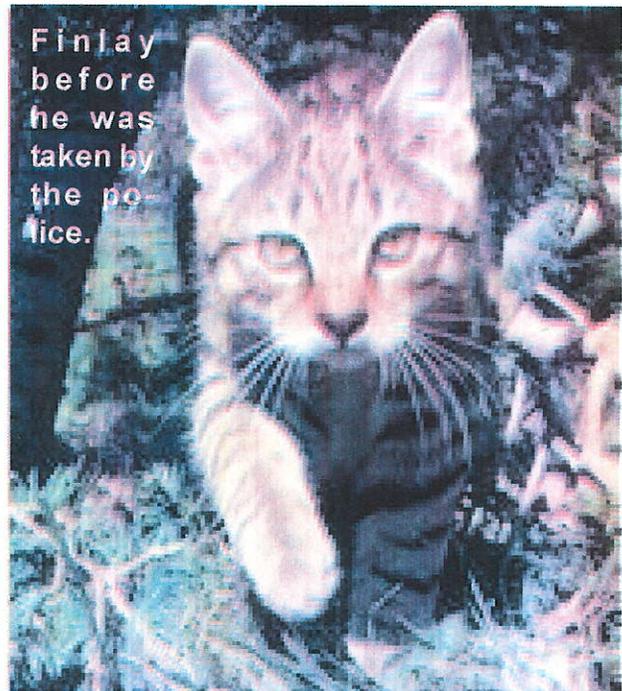
Our immediate priority is Finlay's survival. Some of you have commented that the police returned Finlay when they did because they didn't want him to die in their custody. Perhaps there is some truth in that.

At least we have him now and he will get all our energy and care to make sure that he pulls through and becomes the magnificent animal he once was.

His spirit has been crushed but we will build him back up and we know Finlay will fight hard to survive. We cannot comprehend how this has been allowed to happen and we know you share our disbelief.

So many of you have asked who to contact and who is responsible. Well as Finlay was seized and detained by the North Wales Police, we can only suggest contacting the North Wales Police commissioner.

His name is Andy Dunbobbins and his



contact details are publicly available on this website:

<<https://www.northwales-pcc.gov.uk/contact-us>> is the website of the North Wales Police Commissioner as given to us by the Wildcat Haven. However, this site is unreachable from the USA due to a block and is not safe according to AOL Assist. You can telephone the North Wales Police Commissioner at 01144 1492 805486. Beth

What has happened to Finlay is just not acceptable and should never be allowed to happen to any other animal again.

We will keep you posted.

Thanks so much for helping us give a voice to the voiceless.

The Wildcat Haven team and Finlay.



THE CLAN BUCHANAN

<www.theclanbuchanan.com>

Representing the Clan Buchanan Worldwide

The Clan Buchanan Society-International, Inc.

**Travel Restrictions in the UK have been lifted.
All Covid mandates in Scotland have been removed.**

In October 2022, Clan Buchanan will witness an event not seen in 370 years: the inauguration of a Chief of the Clan Buchanan. This celebration will combine ancient Scottish traditions with a modern touch.

Don't miss the once in a lifetime opportunity

to be a part of history.

All Clan Buchanan members, including all associated family names, are urged to attend.

All persons interested in Scottish history and traditions are welcome to attend and represent their clan or culture at the inauguration.

THE INAUGURATION CELEBRATION OF THE BUCHANAN



Clar Innis!

*This once-in-a-lifetime
event promises to be
an unprecedented event,
for Buchanans and
Scotland as a whole*



**Bookings are now available at
<trybooking.com/uk — Search "Clan Buchanan">**

Clan Donald USA at the Scotland County Highland Games in Laurenburg, NC

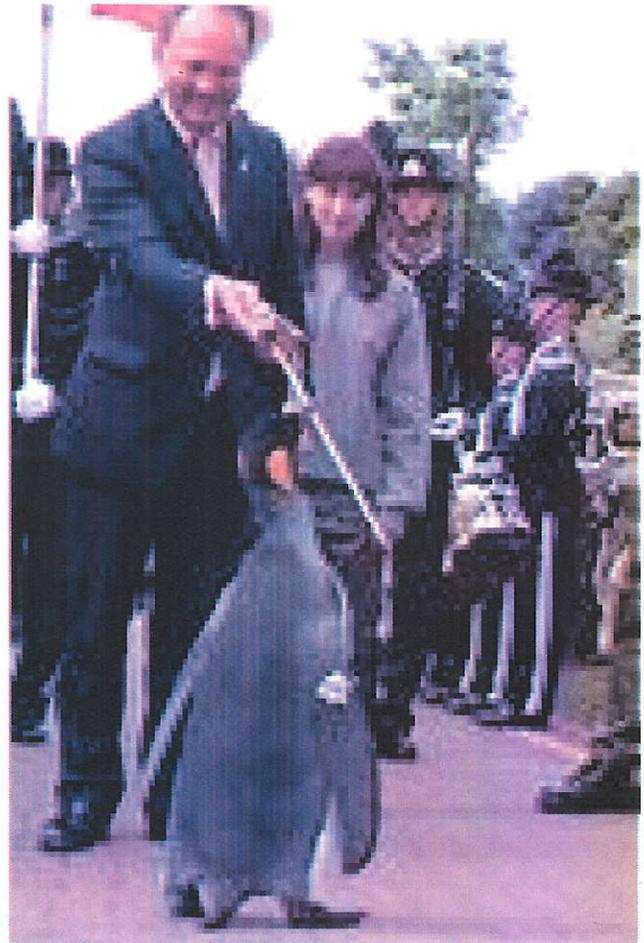


With many thanks to David F. MacDonald!

The world's best antide-
pressant has 4 legs, a wagging
tail and comes with uncondi-
tional love.



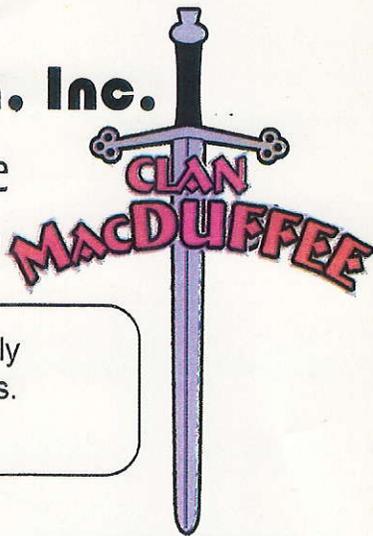
I cleaned under your bed for you.
You're welcome.



Sir Nils Olav is the Colonel -in-Chief
of the Norwegian Royal Guard, and was
knighted in 2008. He is also a King
Penguin and lives at the Edinburgh Zoo.

MacDuffee Clan Society of America, Inc.

of Clan Macfie



Ceud Mile Failte! 100,000 Welcomes!

Annual General Meeting held each year in July
at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.
You are always welcome to attend.

President: Thomas P. McDuffee
tpmijm@aol.com

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MacDuffee
Clan Society
of America



4th of July Parade in Marietta, GA

Bill Boyd was kind enough to send us pictures of the folks who had such a good time at the Marietta, GA 4th of July parade! Bill's crew has represented the Scottish community for

several years at this very popular parade.

Kneeling (l-r) Kady Allen (Clan MacKay and a Highland Dancer), Myken Spiesz (Clan Mackintosh) Row 2: Lord John Allen and Lady Jessica Allen (Clan MacKay) Bill Boyd (Clan Hamilton), Gail, Brylee and Eddie Graham (Clan Graham), Tom and Brenda Hewitt (Clan Hewitt and Clan Colquhoun), Darlene Delozier (Clan Gordon) Row 3: Kendrick Allen (Clan MacKay) Roxanne Rose (Clan Rose) & Wilder Graham (Clan Graham).



William Tew and son, Jonathan. William is past president of Clan Moncrief



Lord John Allen (personal representative of MacKay Clan Chief Aeneas Simon Mackay, 15th Lord Reay and Lady Jessica Allen. Below.



THE CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY

'S Rioghal Mo Dhream!

Royal is my Race!

Fàilte! The Clan Gregor Society is a growing organisation with membership throughout the world. It's most active objectives are to extend the links of kinship and friendship between MacGregors, wherever they may be, and to provide a focal point for all members of the Clan and interested visitors who wish to learn more of our noble past.

Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor

7th Baronet of Lanrick and Balquidder

24th Chief of Clan Gregor

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Join Clan Gregor today! www.clangregor.org

Adorable owl chick blends in with stuffed toys on shelf at Scottish Owl Centre



Daily Record

Ellie Forbes and Jennifer Russell

The five-week-old spectacled owl could barely be distinguished as real as it sat next to the toy owls.

This adorable owl chick blended in as it posed next to stuffed toys that looked just like it. The five-week-old spectacled owl could barely be distinguished as real as it sat next to the toy owls.

The white fluff ball was bred at the Scottish Owl Centre, West Lothian, and

is already a hit with visitors. The species is the only kind of owl to live permanently in the Amazon rainforest.

Keepers won't know the sex of the owl until it's fully grown at 12 weeks - but said it's sweet natured and curious.

When it is older its white feathers will become dark with spectacle patterns around the eyes. The owl's parents and brother, who was born in 2020, also live at the centre.



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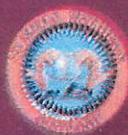
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