

Vol. XII No. 6 *Beth's Newfangled Family Tree* December 2018 Section A

# Edinburgh Tattoo to head down under for run in Sydney, Australia stadium

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo is to be staged in Australia for the first time as part of a drive to take the event overseas more regularly.

The ANZ Stadium in Sydney's Olympic Park will play host to the event for four nights in October 2019.

The Tattoo was last staged in Australia in 2016 when Melbourne played host to the event.

Around 166,000 spectators are expected to flock to the vast arena to see the cast of several hundreds musicians and dancers perform against a backdrop of a full-size replica of Edinburgh Castle.

It is thought the event will generate more than \$37 million for the Sydney economy, with nearly 60,000 people expected to book an overnight trip to see the show.

North America, Canada, China, India and the Middle East are all on a list of po-

tential locations.

Brigadier David Allfrey, chief executive of the Tattoo, said: "The relationship between The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo and Australia runs broad and deep. "We're linked institutionally through the Commonwealth, the Scottish Diaspora, military bonds, shared history and experiences and so many individual friendships and family connections.

"It is a huge privilege for us to be invited to stage a Tattoo that stands to be bigger and more extraordinary than ever before."

Adam Marshall, tourism and events minister for New South Wales, said: "The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo has a proud history of delivering world-class, public military event which entertain and inspire people all over the world."



Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!



THE HOMETOWN PUBLICATION FOR THE WORLDWIDE SCOTTISH COMMUNITY

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*Beth's Newfangled Family Tree*  
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Flowers of the Forest, questions, etc.,  
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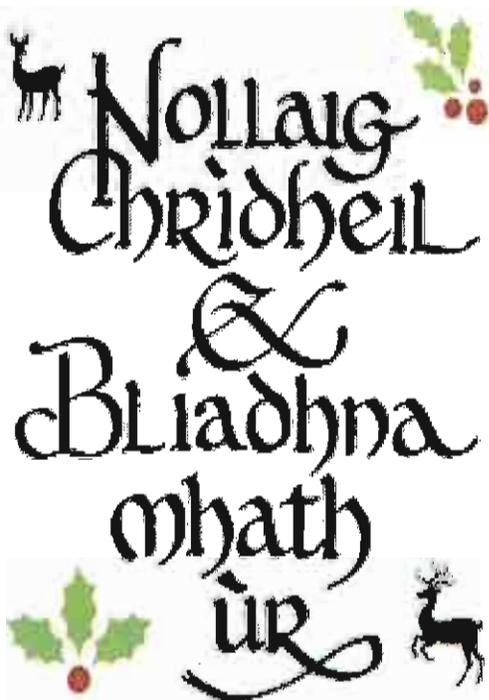
# *Beth's Newfangled Family Tree* is **FREE.**

Just visit  
<https://electricscotland.com/bnft>

**XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX**

**Browse amongst the archives,  
read the current issue  
and others as much as you wish!**

Section B is "up" on the  
Internet about the  
15<sup>th</sup> of each month.  
Section A is "up"  
a day or so before the  
first of the next month.

  
Nollaig  
Chridheil  
&  
Bliadhna  
mhath  
ùr



Every good Christmas wish to you  
and yours...  
from Beth and Tom and Alastair

A letter from your editor...

## Tom & Beth's 176<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration & Christmas Letter

Guest columnist, Thomas R. Freeman, Jr.

The burgeoning Holiday Season gives cause for Beth and I to reflect upon the time since our paths first crossed, lo these eighteen years ago.

"Hold," you say, in mild confusion, having noticed the above title. It is easily explained...you see, Beth (the Woman Duplicitous) revealed to me just *after* our Handfasting, that she didn't expect to reach our fiftieth anniversary, due to some negligible difference in our ages. Knowing that all the good anniversary gifts come later rather than sooner, I humbly suggested we switch to the year equivalent of the noble African Pigmy Hedgehog, that being sixteen to one. Problem solved.

Upon further consideration, it seems the predominant salient point of our lives is that we have lived remarkably duplicate existances from the cradle on. Perhaps a brief sampling would prove illustratory at this juncture, beginning with the fact we were on horseback before we could walk, a predeliction that exists to this day, resulting in my modifying our auto's front passenger seat belt with a lock to which I posses the only key. I did mention Beth comes from one of the Scottish Reiving Clans, didn't I? 'Tis better than having her leap from the moving car everytime we pass a buckskin Quarter Horse.

Then, there comes the nekkid bathing al fresco, which is something of a right of passage for country folk such as us. Also, we both learned early in school that a penchant for things artistic could, on occasion, spare one from classroom drudgery.

Beth studied ballet and tap, while I was a competitive ballroom dancer and we both practiced the signature southern terpsacore of clogging. Beth found her ballet position number two was perfect for toeing out of the chute when riding bareback broncs during her rodeo days.

We both have nearly identical photographs of our school bands each posing on the US Capitol steps in the same place and probably by the same photographer, but about sixteen years apart. We both performed with our state's All State Orchestras. She was a Hometown Hero carrier for the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay and I was in the 1996

*Continued on page 9*



Photo by Kari Henderson

*During one of Beth's genealogy lectures at this year's Stone Mountain Highland Games, she was interrupted by a bunch of Hendersons with a piper going full blast to present her with the Clan Henderson Chief's Prize, the highest award given by Clan Henderson. Shown is Dr. Ed Hendrick presenting the award. Beth and Ed have been cohorts and great friends for many years.*

Problem number two, our most desperate vexation and you can help: Beth likes chunky while I prefer creamy. Which style of peanut butter is the better?



Photo by Tom Hodges

*Tom and Beth at the 2018 Friday night reception at the Stone Mountain Highland Games. Beth cleans up rather well but Tom is something of a work in progress.*



20th Anniversary Concert

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# New light shed on Gilmerton, Scotland underground tunnels

Atlas Obscura (You may subscribe for free - [atlasobscura.com](http://atlasobscura.com))



New light is being shed on a mysterious network of tunnels and caves carved out of rock underneath Edinburgh.

Scientists using radar imaging equipment have discovered the ancient passageways at "Gilmerton Cove" extend much further than originally thought.

More chambers have also been uncovered during the research project, BBC Scotland has learned.

The caves lie under the former mining village of Gilmerton in the south of Edinburgh.

Experts have long been baffled by the origins of the underground passageways and chambers.

They include stone benches, tables and even a small chapel hand-carved out of the sandstone.

The network has been linked to druids, witchcraft, a gentlemen's drinking den and even Mary Queen of Scots.

Now scientists from the universities of St Andrews and Edinburgh are using ground-penetrating radar equipment to map out what else may lie beneath.

The waves bounce off cavities or tunnels carved into the rock below.

The team has discovered that the subterranean network is at least double the size originally thought.

Simon Shackley, from Edinburgh University's

School of Geosciences, said: "On the other side of Gilmerton Road there is a rather large chamber that is probably about 4m [13ft] deep."

"There also appear to be cavities in front of the cove and behind it - both about 2m deep".

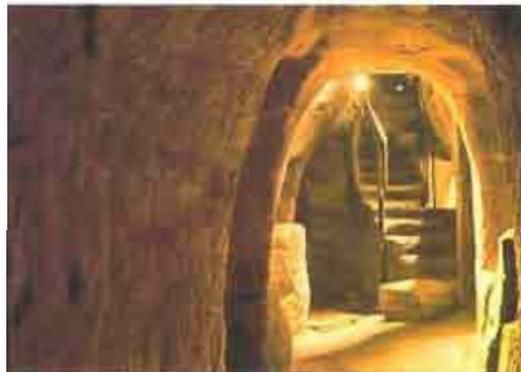
Dr Richard Bates, of St Andrews University, told BBC Scotland the tunnels were "strange places" with very little detail about who used them or why they were built in the first place.

"Perhaps by the work we're doing - if we're getting a bigger picture we're mapping in a more extensive way the footprint of it - then what we're hoping is that will tell us something about the use," he said.

"If it's got lots more passageways or maybe it's only got these two single passageways, but they might be leading somewhere else. And where they're leading to could potentially tell us what these were used for."

The scientists are now putting together a proposal to undertake more detailed 3D imaging of the site to give them a better picture of the cave network.

Margaret Anne Dugan, - owner of Rosslyn Tours and a guide at Gilmerton Cove, said: "It's incredibly exciting. We would love it if we could finally find out what lies beyond the blocked tunnels, if we could unlock those secrets and solve the mystery once and for all."



The 2018 Society of Antiquaries of Scotland Rhind lectures by Dr John Barber are now online on our website. To watch (go to resources and search for 'Rhind') <https://www.socantscot.org/uncategorised/2018-rhind-lectures-now-online/> Also on our YouTube channel, Twitter account and FaceBook page - feel free to spread far and wide!

The Clan Colquhoun Society in North America  
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**<http://www.clancolquhoun.com>**



Contact Tom Hodges:  
[sijepuis@bellsouth.net](mailto:sijepuis@bellsouth.net)

Allied Families and Septs of  
Clan Colquhoun are:  
Colquhoun, Calhoun, Cowan,  
MacClintock & MacManus

# Clan Blair Society

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



**[www.clanblair.org](http://www.clanblair.org)**

President Clan Blair Society: Jim Blair  
7200 S. Prince Street  
Littleton, CO 80120  
Email: [president@clanblair.org](mailto:president@clanblair.org)



Membership Chairman: Charles Diman  
3413 Sunnybrook Drive, Charlotte, NC 28210-4715  
Email: [ClanMembership@clanblair.org](mailto:ClanMembership@clanblair.org)

# Military Research Using *Fold 3*

Bryan L. Mulcahy, MLS

*Fold 3* is part of the Ancestry.com family of databases. The content on *Ancestry*, *Family Search*, *Find My Past*, and *My Heritage* includes military records, but *Fold 3* is considered the most comprehensive. *Fold 3* is for historians, researchers, veterans and their families, genealogists, teachers or anyone who wants to learn more about our history.

*Fold 3* offers a subscription version which provides users with the greatest number of research benefits. There are two different versions of *Fold 3*. The library edition offers most of the same benefits but it is considered more of a searchable database versus accessing some of the interactive features. For researchers using the library edition of *Fold 3*, the best site to visit for a comprehensive review is <https://proquest.libguides.com/Fold3>.

*Fold 3* features access to over 98 million original historical images. On the subscription database users can comment on and/or print the images, share the images with friends, create galleries of favorite images, search, browse, upload images, and view and search members' images. The focus has been on digitizing original historical and military records from the National Archives. Many of these records are not available anywhere else on the internet in the same detail as found on *Fold 3*. The conflicts included in both versions of *Fold 3* include the following: The American Revolution, Revolutionary War Pension Files, Revolutionary War Rolls.



Revolutionary War Service Records; War of 1812 Pension Files, War of 1812 Prize Cases, Southern Dist Court, NY; War of 1812 Service Records (Lake Erie); Mexican American and Early Indian Wars, Mexican War Service Records; Indian Wars Service Record Index, Ratified Indian Treaties; The Civil War, Confederate Soldier Service Records, Union Soldier Service Records; Southern Claims Commission, Civil War Pension Index; Spanish-American War Service Record Index, Spanish-American War Service Records - Florida; World War I, Naturalization Index for WWI Soldiers, Expeditionary Forces Air Service; Gorrell's History of the American Expeditionary Forces.

You'll also find: World War II, *USS Arizona Memorial*, WWII Hero Pages, WWII Pictures and Photos, WWII Documents, Missing Air Crew Reports, Photographs of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, WWII Japanese soldiers, and Prisoners of War; Korean War, Korean War Casualties; Navy Muster Rolls, 1949-1971, New York State Military Museum Photos (Civil War - Vietnam War); Vietnam War, Army War Photos, Vietnam War Marine Corps Color & B/W; Unit Service Awards, The Interactive Vietnam Wall; Recent Wars; Casualties from Persian Gulf War; Medal of Honor Recipients, 1863-2013.

Some additional collections that are unique to *Fold 3* include: American Revolution Archives; Native American Archives; African American Archives;

*Continued on page 9*

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**Fold 3, continued from page 7**

U.S. Bureau of Investigation Case Files and World War II Archives.

Bryan Mulcahy, M.L.S., Reference Librarian, Ft. Myers Regional Library, located at 2450 First Street,

Ft. Myers, FL 33901.

Email: <bmulcahy@leegov.com> Voice communication at: 239-533-4626 and Fax is 239-485-1160. Visit the library website: <leelibrary.net>



*A ten year old photo below of The Kingdome of Raknar, celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary was celebrated in June of 2018.*



**Christmas letter, continued from page 3**

Paralympic Torch Relay.

We carried our torches about three hundred miles apart and had not yet met.

We first met on the telephone when she was looking for someone to assist with designing some items for an event she put on each year called Scottish Weekend. We both noticed while occasionally talking shop that we often finished each other's sentences and got the same obscure jokes and loved puns.

Eventually, we met in person, and became good friends for years.

Now, we have been Handfasted for two years and married for nine, in people years. We drive down the highway seeing who can name the fonts on billboards, who can come up with the most groansome pun and where's the next thrift emporium, especially to troll for Hawaiian shirts to enlarge my collection.

Beth introduced me to The Kingdome of Raknar, which is an organization of friends from all over the world. Fun is had, great Raids (parties) are held and much excellent food is consumed.

Beth was recently made the first ever Dame in The Kingdome. I hold the title of Duke of the Horse. If you're ever at the Glasgow, Kentucky Highland Games in June, we will gladly invite you to attend

the Raid held there.

After three years of looking hither and yon for a dwelling to become our wee Scottish country home, we found one tucked away in northeast Georgia, lacking only some well-chewed furniture with a bit of the stuffing showing to make it truly authentic. It is quiet and most of our neighbors are goats, horses, many cats, one donkey (Beth's gift to me on Valentine's Day three years ago) and the occasional deer, bear, wild hog and bobcat. And, Bigfoot, but that's another story we may get to another time.

For now, we live to one day become that spooky old couple down at the end of the lane.

As I was a few million quid short of building my love a castle, the house is called *Mo Leannon*, which is Gaelic for *My Beloved*.

We have guests stop in while out traveling and finding themselves too weary of the road to go on to Atlanta without a rest. If you are friendly and willing to do the cats' bidding during your stay, you're welcome, too. After all, we are all here to provide cats with staff and good humor. Just be sure to call ahead so we know when we expect you.

May you and all your family have a joyous Christmas and a bright New Year!



# Eliot Clan Society, USA

## Membership Information 2018

The Elliot Clan Society is a worldwide organization, with active branches in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States. In accordance with Scottish Clan Law, Clan membership includes all Elliots, Elliots, Elliotts, those of whose mother or grandmother was so named and their spouses. This also applies to Elliotts of known Scottish descent.

If you are a person of Scottish ancestry bearing the name Elliot, Elliott or Eliott (Including the spouse or descendant of such person) and wish to join the Elliot Clan Society, please fill out the membership form. Those forms may be found on the "Official ECS Website" at:

# [www.elliotclan.com](http://www.elliotclan.com)

For US residents, please make sure that you send your completed ECS USA membership forms to the Membership/Treasurer. Once you join the Society, you will receive periodic newsletters from the ECS USA and our Parent Society in Scotland. The newsletters will inform you of Scottish festivals in your area and other announcements of importance to our Clan. Membership allows you to meet other Elliots with similar interests who share our Scottish heritage.

Contact Patricia Tennyson Bell

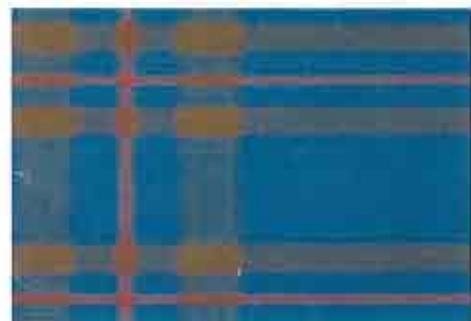
*Email: [dublincollen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dublincollen@sbcglobal.net) or write*

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# Flowers of the Forest

Clan Bell Society & Clan Sutherland



**Carolyn (Carol) June Perkins Clark** of Oakridge, Oregon, passed away at Mackenzie Willamette hospital surrounded by her loving family on Wednesday October 10, 2018.

She was born June 27, 1940, to Charles Byron Perkins and Martha Marie McKnight Perkins,

of Portland, Oregon. She moved with her parents to Oakridge in 1948, and instantly fell in love with the mountains, river, and community; living anywhere else was never an option.

She achieved her high school diploma through Lane Community College at the Oakridge Senior High, and received a scholarship to the same. She later received a secretarial certificate and a degree in Office Administration from Lane Community College.

Carol was preceded in death by her father, Charles Byron Perkins, mother, Martha Marie McKnight Perkins, husband Donald Rae Clark, father-in-law, Irvin McClellan Clark, brother, Dr. Frederick Kraus, and grandson Bryce Adam Tilley.

She is survived by lifetime partner Donald R. Cavilee, daughters, Marie Clark-Callen (Bob), Patricia Ray Stevenson, (Gary), Donna Clark-MacMurchy (Chuck). She is also survived by grandchildren: Amanda Baszler, Aleta Baszler Tilley, Donald J. Clark, Trina Clark, Johnny Allen, Sheena Allen, Danny Allen, Charles (Chaz) MacMurchy, Kirstin June MacMurchy, Donald Hunter MacMurchy and by great grandchildren: Trevor Baszler, Brianna

Sparks, Devon Sparks, Kaylee Sparks, Emily Hill, Austin Tilley, Natania Tilley, Adrianna Tilley, Zoelle Rivera, Xavier Rivera, Azandria Rivera, Kevin-Anthony (Aiden) Harris, Gracie Ann and Lily Lynn Allen, and great, great granddaughter Harper Baszler,

She worked as a car-hop in the late 1950s. In the early 1960s, she served on the committee that was organized to get Willamette City annexed to the city of Oakridge.

She taught tole and decorative painting and landscaping privately, and through Lane Community College.

She was employed as a computer operator at Lynn Nusantara in Eugene.

She is a former member of the Oakridge Art's and Craft's Guild.

She served as secretary for the Oakridge Chamber of Commerce for a number of years. She served as Secretary/manager with Forestvale Memorial Park in her senior years. She served as secretary for multiple bowling leagues, she played the clarinet and bass clarinet in the Oakridge Orchestra.

She was a member of the Elm Rebecka Lodge, Acorn 8's square dancing club, the Oakridge Women of the Moose, and most recently a member of the Clan Bell Society.

She served as Proof reader for Clan Sutherland Society of North America's newsletter, *Dunrobin Piper*, while it was still a monthly newsletter.

Her many hobbies included bowling, square dancing, cake decorating, painting, sewing, piano, clarinet, home canning, bunco, pinochle, and crafting.

Carol passed along her love of learning, crafting and her *do it yourself* mindset to her children.

*Continued on page 13*

# Clan MacCord Society

Invites for membership all spelling variations and descendants of McCord (a)(e)(y).

Also McCourt, McChord, McCoard, Cord(e), McCart, McCort, Cort(e)(s) and Flynn, McFettridge and Kane.

## Harlan D. McCord

President/Chief

4403 Vickery Ave East  
Tacoma, WA 98443-2016

Email:

cmccord1234@msn.com



# Clan Home Society (International)



Cordially invites membership inquiries from all HOME, HUME & Allied Families.

**President Rodney Green**

317 Oak Ridge Drive  
Moody, AL 35004  
205-368-5286

lawnmower391@gmail.com



Clan Home Society (Int.) Stone Mountain 2015



**Keets is at it again! Gorgeous!**

**Flowers of the Forest, continued from page 11**

There was a viewing Friday, October 19, 2018 at the United Methodist Church, 48137 E 1st St, Oakridge, Oregon, with a graveside service following at Forestvale Memorial Park 48821 McFarland Road, Oakridge, Oregon.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Carol's name, to any local organization.

In early 2009, just as soon as Carol discovered that her daughter, Marie, had been accepted as Editor of *The Dunrobin Piper*, she volunteered to be the official proof reader. She happily provided this service for well over nine years.

She loved her Scottish heritage and her ties with Clan Sutherland. In 2007 she attended one of the Clan Sutherland Ceilidhs in Acme, Washington, along with her three daughters, four of her grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

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**Clifford Tyndale**, whose nom de plume was Duncan MacPhail, died unexpectedly at age 55 in Edinburgh, Scotland last October.. One of his last acts was gifting 22 copies of his book, *The Historical Handbook to Scotland*, to the Clan Grant Society, USA. He was a long time friend and colleague of our editor, Beth Gay Freeman and her husband, Tom Freeman.

*Keets Farquhar Taylor created the work of art above. She says, "This was a commission to turn grand dad's military Footlocker into a faux leather steamer trunk with a muggle switch, bowtruckles, and a niffler escaping with a time turner... just for fun.*

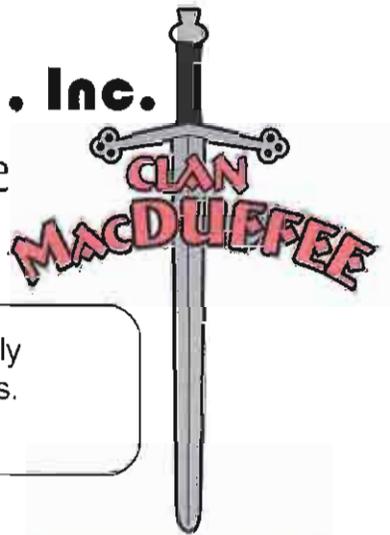
*If you would like for Keets to create something for you, just email her at: <keets8385@earthlink.net>*

**The arrangement of keys on a typewriter is called "QWERTY" for the first six letters on the top alphabet row.**

**Sometimes people use all 10 letters and call it the 'QWERTYUIOP' keyboard. Are either of these pronounceable?**

# 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

**Treasurer: David M. McDuffie**  
dnmcduffie@gmail.com

**Genealogist: Richard Ledyard**  
865-671-2555  
rledyard@tds.net



# Making your own Christmas Cake

Jackie Anderson writing in *Think Scotland*

This is the cake I have made for years and is fool proof as well as being the best tasting Christmas cake I make, despite me being swayed to try something different now and again. I have made it again for this year and it is now wrapped up and being fed two table-spoons of brandy now and again up until I marzipan it three weeks before Christmas.

## Ingredients

- 1 lb. of currants
- 6 ounces of sultanas (I use yellow sultanas)
- 4 ounces of raisins
- 2 ounces of chopped prunes
- 2 ounces of glacé cherries, finely chopped
- 2 ounces of chopped candied peel
- 3 tablespoons of brandy
- 8 ounces of plain flour
- Small teaspoon of salt
- Small teaspoon of freshly grated nutmeg
- Small teaspoon of mixed spice
- Half teaspoon of all spice
- 8 ozs of unsalted butter
- 8 ounces of soft brown sugar
- 4 eggs, size 1, beaten in a bowl
- 2ozs of chopped almonds
- 1 dessert spoon of black treacle
- Grated zest of 1 lemon and 1 orange

Grease an 8 inch round (or 7inch square) tin with butter and line the inside with greaseproof paper. Tie a band of brown paper round the outside of the tin with real string - not plastic twine! The night before you want to bake it put all the fruit in a large bowl and stir in the brandy. Cover with a cloth and leave for 10 to 12 hours.



Next day heat the oven to gas mark 1 (140c) Sift the flour, salt and spices into a large bowl. In a separate large bowl whisk the butter and sugar together until it's light and fluffy. Add the eggs a little at a time until incorporated. Then add the flour and spices mixture. Now fold in the fruit and peel that has soaked overnight, chopped nuts and treacle and last the grated lemon and orange zests.

Transfer the mixture to your tin using a spoon to press down evenly. Put a double layer of greaseproof paper, with a hole in the middle, over the top of the mixture and place at the back in the bottom shelf of your oven for at least 4 hours. Cool the cake for 30 minutes then transfer to a baking rack to cool completely.

Wrap in greaseproof paper and foil to store in a dry place. Take out and feed with drips of brandy every couple of days

Three weeks before Christmas cover in marzipan and then Royal Icing. Recipes for these are easy to find.

## Flower of the Forest, Clan Murray's Harrell Charles Murray, III

**Harrell Charles Murray III**, 74, of Savannah, Georgia, died Tuesday evening, September 4, 2018, at Hospice Savannah.

Hal is survived by his 91 year old mother, son Harrell Charles Murray, IV, brothers Frank and Morgan, and sister Susan Stephens.

Hal was a veteran of the United States Navy (lieutenant junior grade - early 1960s). He was a tireless volunteer for the Savannah USO. He served as Master of Convents for the Priory of Saint Vincent of the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem. He was the Convener of North America Clan Murray.



# clankeith-usa.org

Official website of The Clan Keith Society USA, Inc

If you have genealogical ties to the surname Keith (including alternate spellings such as Keeth) or any of Clan Keith's Sept family names, you were born into the Clan Keith!

Septs and spellings include: Achindachy - Astine - Aston - Auſten - Austin - Cate(s) - Dick - Dickson - Dicson - Dixon - Dixson - Falconer - Faulkner - Harvey - Harvie - Hackston - Haxton - Hervie - Hervey - Hurrie - Hurry - Keath - Keech - Keeth - Keith - Keyth - Kite - Lum - Lumgair - MacAustin - MacDick - MacDicken - MacDickie - MacDeetch - MacKeeth - MacKeitch - MacKeith - Marshall - Urie - Urry

The Clan Keith Society would be delighted for you to join us as a member. For more information, please email [membershipclankeith@mindspring.com](mailto:membershipclankeith@mindspring.com) or call 404-539-5222.

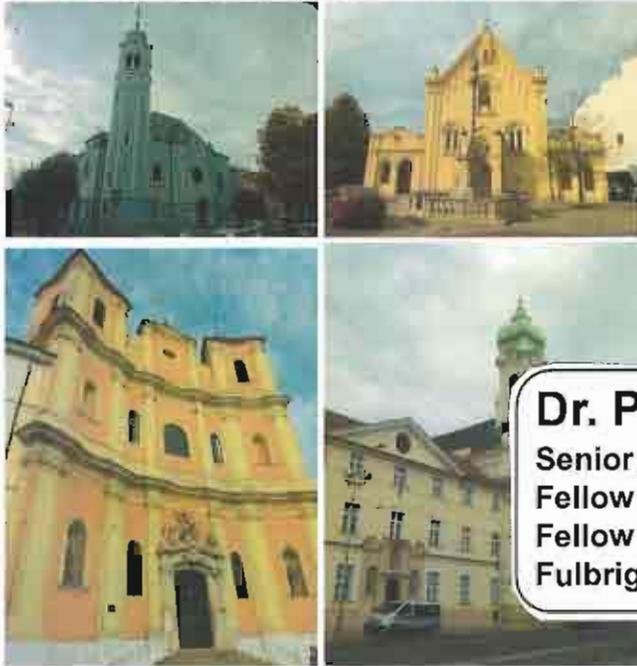


Dunnottar Castle, stronghold of the Keiths (near Stonehaven)

Please plan to attend your local Highland Games and, if you see our tent, please come by for a visit. The tent convener will have information about Clan Keith's fascinating history as well as membership information. Membership in the Clan is not expensive but one of the finest investments that you will every make. Hope to see you soon!

## Traveling Europe & The Highlands

The autumn meeting of the European Masonic Association (EMA) this year was in Bratislava, Slovakia, and I was excited to attend. I had a preconceived idea that since Slovakia was part of the Soviet-Bloc, and thus trapped behind the Iron Curtain during the Cold War, it would be gray and drab. In actuality, the old town in Bratislava was quite colorful, particularly the churches as shown here.



The largest of them was St. Martin's Cathedral, which is where the kings of Slovakia were crowned in olden days (like Scone in Scotland). The cathedral is adjacent to a still-standing portion of the medieval city walls.



The cathedral has some amazingly ornate decoration inside.



While passing through Vienna, I also slipped into St. Steven's Cathedral. It was as impressive as the UK cathedrals I have visited.



### Dr. Pete Hylton, Ed.D.

Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy  
Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology  
Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland  
Fulbright Scholar



I found the old town of Bratislava to be a wonderful place to wander through-the narrow streets (no cars allowed) and stop into various shops and eat at street cafes, as can be seen here in front of Michaels Gate, one of the entrances to old town through the ancient city walls.

*Continued on page 19*



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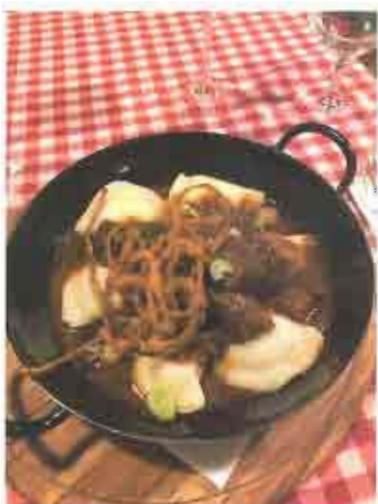
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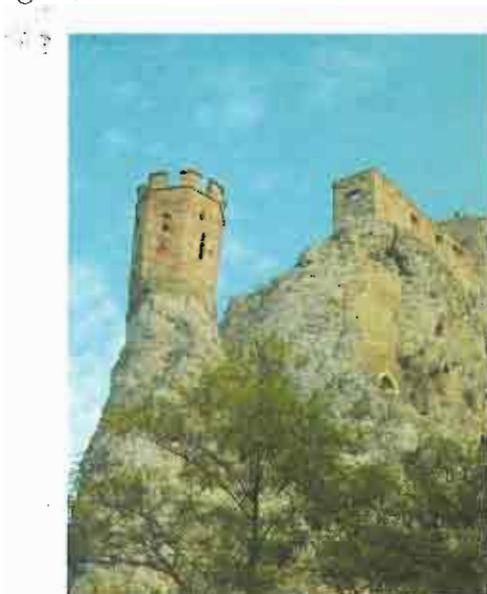
Visit us at [www.scottishheritageusa.org](http://www.scottishheritageusa.org) and join **NOW!**



The food was wonderful, and the best was this venison goulash over dumplings filled with sheep cheese.



I was able to figure out the Slovak bus system well enough to get to the ruins of Devin Castle. The site was originally a fortress of the Celts, then the Romans. It then became a Christian mission site, and eventually a castle for the kings of Moravia.



It was a defensive stronghold in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, when these stone cannon balls were fired from cast iron cannon. Then in 1809 it was dynamited by Napoleon.



The castle is built atop a hill that is full of caves and fissures, and many of these are incorporated into the castle passages, such as I have circled in yellow in this photo.



During the Soviet era, the barrier known as the Iron Curtain ran right below the castle. There are numerous memorials to the nearly 400 people who died trying to escape across the barrier and swim the Danube

*Continued on page 21*

# The Clan Skene Association, Inc.

The Clan Skene Association, Inc., invites membership from SKENE and septs CARISON, CARNEY/ C A R N I E , CURRIEHILL, DYAS, DYCE, DYER, HALL, H A L Y A R D / H A L L Y A R D , MacGAILLARD, RENNIE & SKAINS.

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**Traveling Europe & The Highlands, *continued from page 19***

River to freedom in Austria. This heart sculpture made of the old barbed wire from the wall and the memorial using the bullet-ridden stones of one of the checkpoints were the most memorable.



After almost three years living in Scotland, I am still amazed that I have only scratched the surface of all the archeological and historic sites in a country that is no bigger than Indiana. Here are a few visited recently.

This is Drumcoltran Tower, built in the 1500s



This is Orchardton Tower, built around 1450, the only round tower house in Scotland.



This one had a beautiful, multi story spiral stairway.



MacLellan's Castle began as a tower before it was expanded.



*Continued on page 23.*

# THE CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY

*'S Rioghal Ma 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**

Clan Gregor  
has  
Great Lakes,  
New England,  
Pacific  
Northwest,  
Western  
United States  
and  
Southeast  
Chapters



For membership,  
contact:  
120 Wicksford Glen  
Sandy Springs,  
GA 30350

Ms. Ishbel McGregor,  
Secretary  
5 Alloa Road  
CAMBUS by Alloa  
Clackmannanshire  
FK10 2NT  
Scotland

**Join Clan Gregor today! [www.clangregor.org](http://www.clangregor.org)**

**Traveling Europe & The Highlands, continued from page 21**

Balvaird Castle from the 1500's, also began as a tower.



There are remnants of tower houses all over the Scottish Borders. You pass them often as you travel, most in ruins, and many not even labeled, like this one.



Burleigh Castle began as a tower house in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century.



Next is Dundrennan Abbey built in 1142.



When Robert Burns spent time as an excise agent, his circuit included the village of Gatehouse of Fleet, which we visited this summer. In the Murray Arms Inn, he wrote "Scots Wha Hae" in 1793.



Dunnottar Castle, is one of the most spectacular in the world. With a floor grate through which William Wallace supposedly snuck into the castle during the wars with England, and a tower in which the crown jewels were hidden during Cromwell's battle against the crown.



*The last five pages continued in Section B for January 2019*



# Clan Forrester

## Society

*Come - join the Forresters*

Membership is available for all spelling variations of Forrester: Forrester, Forester, Forrister, Forister, Forest, Forrest, Foster, Carstarphen.



Contact: **Ben Forrester**,  
Membership Chairman  
1034 Blue Heron Drive  
Commerce, GA 30529  
Phone: 706-335-7688  
Email: [benbf@windstream.net](mailto:benbf@windstream.net)



### FOSTER SURNAME DNA Project

Genealogy Research on Foster / Forster / Forrester / Forester /  
Fornster / Forrester / Forster / Forrister / Vorster / Voster Families





# You can now eavesdrop on orcas on your own computer!

Visit:  
<http://live.orcasound.net/>

Matthew Taub, writing for *Atlas Obscura*

SOMEWHERE IN THE HARO STRAIT, where Washington State trickles into British Columbia, a whale poops. That waste is a scientific goldmine, but not if scientists don't know it's there. But if you listen close, you might be able to help them find it.

An internet app called OrcaSound allows citizen scientists to livestream the ocean sounds of the Pacific Northwest from anywhere in the world, to help gather data about the resident killer whales and their environs. Scott Veirs, the project's lead researcher, said that hydrophones (underwater microphones) have been in place off Washington's San Juan Island since the mid-2000s, capturing the submarine goings-on and bringing them to listeners in a rudimentary form. The app relaunched recently, and now offers real-time streaming, as well as sounds from an all-new hydrophone station off Whidbey Island, just to the southeast of the the older ones.

Veirs developed OrcaSound because he saw an opportunity for engaged citizens to help fill gaps in the study of orcas. The whales have long been well-observed in the summertime, when the weather cooperates and the cetaceans are more accessible to scientists and the Coast Guard, who observe them by boat. But questions have lingered about their lives during other times of the year. Now, in any season, listeners can notify scientific authorities to alert them to the presence of whales, so they can rush out like first responders to collect important data. The orcas have been facing a food crisis in recent years, so their fecal matter can help scientists get a sense of what

they're managing to eat, and what their stress levels are like. Having citizens on the line is also an exercise in preparing for the worst, like an oil spill. In such a case, there will be multiple (ear) witnesses to attest to where the whales were at the time.

But whales and waves are not the only things listeners will hear. "I want people to be able to listen to the ocean easily so they understand that it's full of wonderful sounds," says Veirs, "but it's also full of noise pollution." Ships make whales' lives much harder, not only because they take up space and pollute the water and have giant rotating blades underneath them, but also because they can effectively blind whales with noise. Like bats, whales hunt with echolocation. Noisy ships create an effect known as "masking," which dulls the whales' critical vocalizations. Ty Crisafulli, who also does research for OrcaSound, likens masking to someone constantly flicking the lights on and off as you try to cook a meal. Not only is it dangerous, but "it would kind of stress you out," he says.

The hope is to make sure that whales are getting the nutrition they need, and provide scientists with data to help them push for restrictions on noise pollution. But Crisafulli says that, over time, the project could help answer more "visionary" questions about the very nature of orca life. If they are producing the same patterns of clicks over and over again, for example, does that count as language? Do certain kinds of calls correspond with certain weather conditions, or with a particular whale's company?

*Just because this is so very interesting!*

# 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    | * McGrail  |
| * 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  |            |





**T**he Armstrong clan motto *Inuletus maneo* - "I remain unvanquished" - is remarkably fitting for the family's early 16th century Gilnockie Tower, south of Langholm.

Built in the heart of the lawless Debateable Lands as a stronghold for one of the area's most notorious Reiving families, Gilnockie has had a hard life.

After turbulent early years it lay empty for more than three centuries before it was renovated as a private home in the mid-1970s and has once again been brought "back from the brink" over the past two years.

Sitting above a dramatic tree-lined bend on the River Esk, just a couple of miles north of the English border near Canonbie, the imposing A-listed, rubble-built pele tower has been painstakingly renovated as a Reiver centre visitor attraction and new home of the Clan Armstrong Centre.

"The tower was brought back from the brink in the 1970s and again over the past two years," says project manager Ian Martin. "We've had to repair floors and walls, put in heating and upgrade the electrics, but we have tried our best to remain sympathetic to the building, to take it back to the 16th century, to give an impression of what it would have been like."

Gilnockie Tower was bought in 1995 by businessman Colin Armstrong, former British Consul in Ecuador, who still lives in South America but returns to the UK four times a year.

He knew Ian through the Clan Armstrong Trust,

which Ian has been volunteer archivist with for 10 years - despite "not having a drop of Armstrong blood" himself - and called him out of the blue in January 2016.

"He asked if I'd like a three-month job, to give the tower a coat of paint, knock in a few nails and open it to visitors. More than two years later, it's only just opened. And it's really been a four-year project compressed into two years."

Ian, a former electrical engineer in the local textile industry, who now lives in Canonbie, has always had a passion for 16th century Scottish history and began studying Scottish and European history at the University of Glasgow's Crichton Campus in Dumfries 15 years ago.

He graduated in 2009 with an MA Honours and his dissertation was on the families of the Esk Valley during the time of the Border Reivers.

Ian threw himself into the restoration project, which has been privately funded, calling on the expertise of a band of local tradesmen and craftsmen.

"Everything that has been done in the building has been done by local companies and individual tradesmen. What has stunned me is the quality of the workmanship from these men. I never dreamt you could find skills like these to return a building to where it came from." ❖

*'I never dreamt you could find skills like these to return a building to where it came from'*

# Armstrong Gilnockie Tower



With thanks to *Dumfries and Galloway Life*, Scotland



# CLAN GRAHAM SOCIETY



## SEPTS

Airth, Alirdes, Allardes, Allardice, Allardyce, Alierdyce, Alyrdes, Ardas, Auchinloch, Ballewen, Blair, Bonar, Bonnar, Bonner, Banlein, Bantline, Bontyne, Bounteno, Buchlyrie, Buchlyry, Bullman, Buntain, Buntin, Buntine, Bunting, Bunten, Buntin, Buntyn, Buntfyng, Buting, Conyers, Crampshee, Cromsy, Cransie, Drumaguhassla, Drumagaassy, Drumaguhassle, Duchray, Duchwray, Dugolston, Durchray, Esbank, Fintraie, Fintray, Fintrie, Glennie, Glenny, Grama, Graeme, Grahame, Grahym, Grim, Grime, Grimes, Grimin, Hadden, Haddon, Haddin, Holdane, Halden, Hastie, Haldine, Hasty, Hasiy, Howden, Howe, Howie, Kilpatrick, Linga, MacCribon, MacGibbon, MacGilvern, MacGilvernack, MacGilvernoel, MacGibbon, MacGrime, MacGrimer, MacIvern, MacIvernock, MacKibben, MacKibbin, MacKibbins, MacPiol, MacPioll, MacPolts, MacRibon, MacRigh, MacRis, MacRiss, MacShile, MacShille, MacShillie, Moharg, Monteilh, Monteith, Monzie, Orchille, Pitcarian, Piatt, Pyatt, Pye, Pyatt, Reddoch, Reddock, Rednack, Riddick, Riddoch, Riddack, Serjeant, Strowan, Strowen

*If you are a Graham  
or Sept of Graham,  
you are cordially  
invited to share  
in a proud and  
noble heritage.  
Join the  
Clan Graham  
Society today!*



**CATHERINE AND JAMES GRAHAM  
DUCHESS AND 8TH DUKE OF MONTROSE  
CHIEF OF THE CLAN GRAHAM**



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Volunteer Elsie Martin in the barrel-vaulted undercroft on the ground floor

Joiner Steve Cattermole had the job of producing furniture and fittings to help replicate how the rooms would have looked in the 16th century. This included creating an enormous refectory table and a four-poster bed, complete with staining and sword scars.

"We tried to replicate how we thought these things would have been from our in-depth research," says Ian.

Lockerbie-based Harkness Painting and Decorating received a historic design award for its sensitive and high-quality work on Gilnockie.

Langholm engineer Ali Bell created the tower's



new wrought iron work, including an impressive balustrade; the electrician was Mick Haining from Langholm, and two local builders, James Hotson and Derek Johnson, worked on the project.

Entering the tower, visitors emerge into the atmospheric barrel-vaulted undercroft where they can buy tickets, souvenirs, including local produce and crafts, and enjoy a drink and a snack.

Six guides are employed at Gilnockie to take visitors around and recorded guidance via headphones is also available.

Up the steep spiral staircase, the tower's first floor is the main communal room which is dominated by an enormous stone fireplace at the far end.

At the entrance to the second-floor bedroom is a trip step designed to trip any intruders if they tried to get in at night, therefore waking the occupants and giving them time to take up their weapons.

*'Many of the people who come here are looking for Johnnie Armstrong, the 'baddest of the bad' when it came to the Border Reivers'*

Continued on page 31



# The Armstrong Clan Society

Dedicated to the Armstrongs, Crosiers, Fairbairns, Grosiers, Nixons and those interested in these 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 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 in the upper left corner of this page. Our motto "Semper Invictus" can be translated as "Always Unconquered."

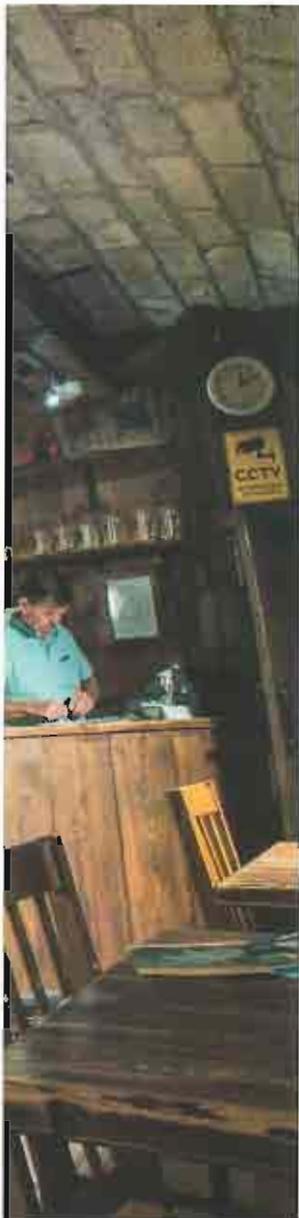
## Objectives of the Armstrong Clan Society

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 are family memberships which includes two adults and all minor children. In all other countries, dues are \$35 per year. All dues are payable in US funds.

For a membership application, email Peter Armstrong at [peter.armstrong1.3@gmail.com](mailto:peter.armstrong1.3@gmail.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.



Taking centre stage in the bedroom is the four-poster bed complete with linen-effect drapes sewn by Ian's wife Elsie and an Armstrong tartan throw. The 'garderobe', or primitive toilet, can still be seen at the south side of the room.

The tower's third floor is a mini Reivers and Armstrong clan museum with archives and a host of artefacts, along with a giant map showing the Debatable Lands and the different territories of the Reiving families.

One display case is dedicated to American astronaut Neil Armstrong, the first person to walk on the moon, who was given the freedom of the town of Langholm when he visited in 1972. Items shown include his foot print, which was sent to Gilnockie Tower by NASA in 1972, and Lunar Tartan, designed by a local knitwear company for his visit.

The tower's fourth floor garret forms a small function room which is available for hire for

meetings and events, including weddings and christenings. Every penny generated by ticket sales and hire goes back into the tower's maintenance.

"Many of the people who come here are looking for Johnnie Armstrong, the 'baddest of the bad' when it came to the Border Reivers," says Ian. "This was very possibly Johnnie's tower but it's all open for argument and interpretation."

George MacDonald Fraser, in his book *The Steel Bonnets*, describes the Armstrongs as "the most feared and dangerous riding clan on the whole frontier" who, in Johnnie Armstrong's day, could put hundreds of men in the saddle and "probably did more damage by foray than any other two families combined".

Johnnie is said to have been betrayed by King James V who, in 1530, invited him to join him at court, promising his safety. In fact, he captured and hanged him, with his entourage, at Carlenrig between Langholm and Hawick. 📍

Clockwise from top: visitor guide Tom Jack in the second floor bedroom with replica 16th century furniture; the fireguard made by Ali Bell and John Hogg; Tom Jack and project manager Ian Martin; Neil Armstrong's boot print from the moon landing

Continued on page 33

# The Families of Clan MacTavish Welcome You to Discover Your Scottish Heritage!



Chief Steven  
MacTavish

Family names associated with Clan MacTavish:  
*Cash, Kash, MacCamish, MacCash, MacCovish,  
MacComb, MacCombie, MacComich, MacCamish,  
MaComie, Macomie, MacCosh, MacLaws,  
MacElhose, MacLehose, MacTavish, McTavish,  
Mactavish, Mactavis, M'Tavish, MacThomas,  
Stephens, Stephenson, Stevens, Stevenson, Tavish,  
Tawesson, Thom, Thomas, Thomason, Thomasson,  
Thompson, Thomson, Tod, and Todd, and all variant  
spellings.*

## We Are Clan MacTavish!



For information about joining us email: [clanmactavishUSA@gmail.com](mailto:clanmactavishUSA@gmail.com)



# FLYING HERALDRY

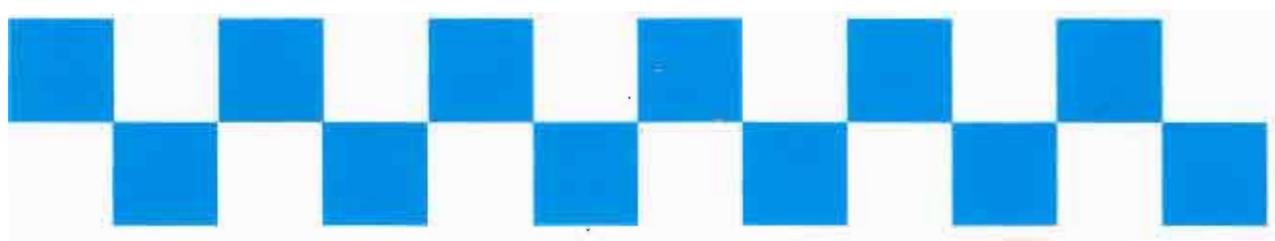
*Your history in living colour.*

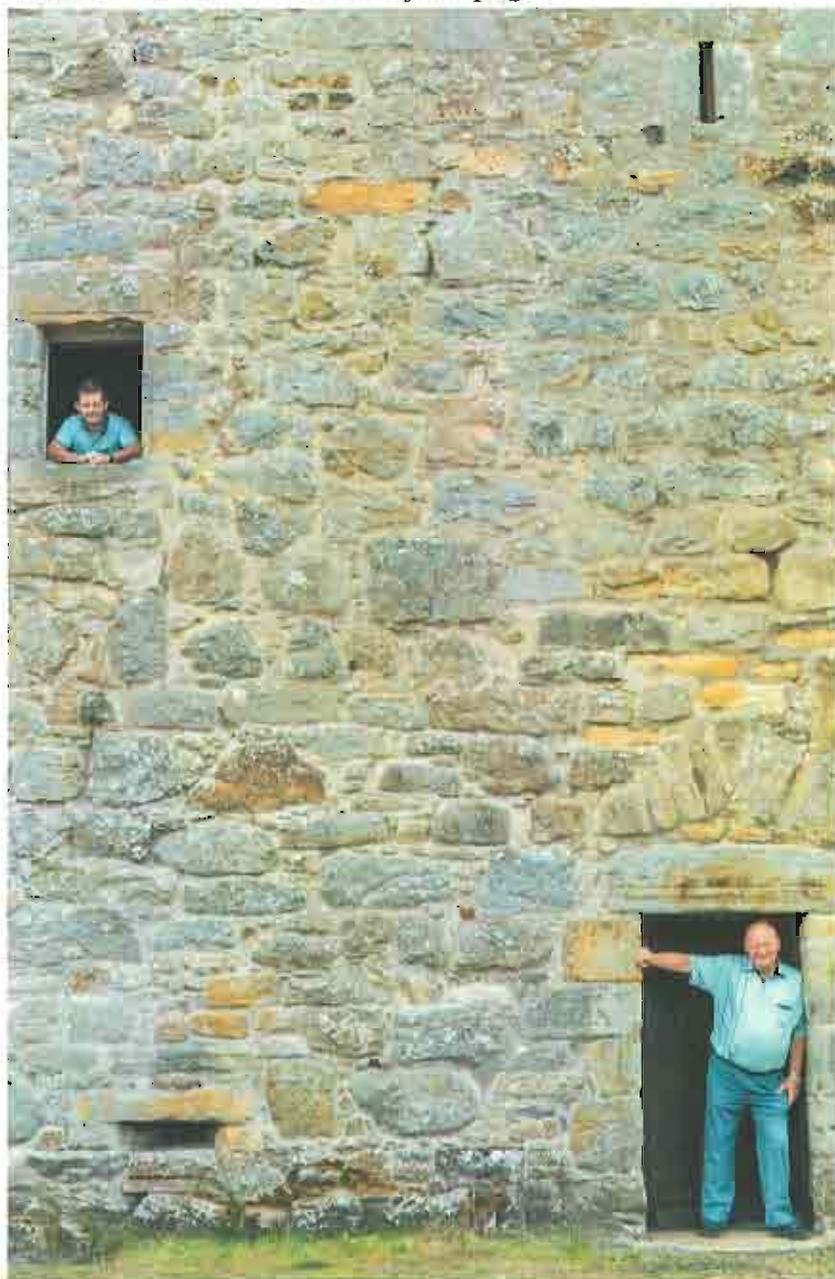
**H**eraldry, though wrought in many forms, is in none so stirring as when seen flying proudly on the wind, colours aflame in the sunlight. Born of necessity on the battlefields of centuries past, these brightly coloured scraps of cloth have long stood watch over both proud victory and grievous loss. Today they reach out from the past to show and nurture our connection to history. Often seen in the parades of tartan common to the modern Scottish highland games, flying heraldry calls us still to rally to our clansmen, march with them and be counted. When next you attend a highland games, give a moment's pause to witness the banners as they pass or, perhaps, join your kinsmen and take your own steps in the long tartan line.

---

For all your heraldic needs, contact Tom Freeman, FSA Scot, at:

**706-839-3881**





Tom Jack and Ian Martin; below: a first-floor alcove and the spiral staircase; top right: some of the furniture made by carpenter Steve Cattermole; the Clan Armstrong museum on the third floor



*'Its condition and how well it has survived is amazing, bearing in mind the hard time it's had'*

Following the Union of the Crowns in 1603, the new king of Great Britain, King James I of England and VI of Scotland, ordered the fortified houses along the border to be demolished. Gilnockie was one of the few which survived.

"Its condition and how well it has survived is amazing, bearing in mind the hard time it's had," says Ian. "Now we are looking forward to celebrating its 500th birthday next year, which will also see the 50th anniversary of Neil Armstrong's walk on the moon."

With the Clan Armstrong Trust newsletter going out to 240,000 subscribers around the world, it's not surprising that Armstrongs have been flocking to the tower since it opened in April.

But it has been attracting a wider audience, too, including descendants of other Border Reiving families, school parties, groups and individuals interested in the wider history of the area.

"We have plans to digitise our archive and relaunch the Border Reiver Trail and we really hope this will bring visitors from the M74 and on to the A7," says Ian. "There is so much fascinating history and heritage to explore up this valley."

www.gilnockietower.com

