



Vol. 8 Issue No. 9 *Beth's Newfangled Family Tree* Section B February 2014

Steven MacTavish of Dunardry, Chief of Clan MacTavish, granted an important amendment in his Arms by Lord Lyon

Chief Steven MacTavish of Dunardry writes, "Since my father, The Much Honored Edward Stewart Dugald MacTavish of Dunardry, gave our Clan rebirth, there has been an ongoing quest within Clan MacTavish to right the wrongs of the past. This is no small feat considering that many documents have been lost or destroyed over many years."

"Thankfully, after diligent research by our Clan MacTavish Seannachie Patrick Thompson, I now have the pleasure to announce that my coat of arms has been changed by Lord Lyon, taking us one step closer to the truth and our rightful place in history. The third quarter Campbell gyronny has been replaced by a lymphad or long ship representing our history with the Isles and the west coast of Scotland," MacTavish continued.

"I owe Patrick Thompson a debt of gratitude for his tireless efforts and I know there will be more revelations in the future," he wrote.

Finally, he wrote, "I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas season with their families. May your New Year be blessed with health and prosperity for all. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at an event this coming year."

For membership information, contact Dr. Carol M. Stephenson, Clan MacTavish Membership Secretary, PO Box 686, Milford, OH 45150-0686. Call 513-575-4470. Email clanmactavishusa@gmail.com or visit the Clan MacTavish website at www.ClanMactavish.org



Amended Arms of Chief Stephen MacTavish of Dunardry

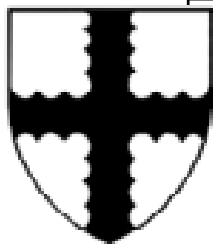
Roses is red and violets is blue...and we say to you all, "Happy Valentine's to You!"

Clan Sinclair Association, Inc. (USA)



7 ft. x 9 ft. tent panel created by Heraldic Artist, Tom Freeman, for the 2009 Gathering in Edinburgh.

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The Scots Tongue

Robert Burns was known for writing and singing in “Scots”. How does that differ from English? The English and Scots tongues experienced somewhat common origins but evolved along different paths over hundreds of years until they had grown apart.

This might explain why, sometimes, some forms and words can be exactly the same in both, but why sometimes they are similar yet different. For example these English words evolved as more/most; but in Scots they became mair/maist. Sometimes they are completely different such as English words cry/disgust; but in Scots they became greet/scunner as a result of other influences such as Gaelic.



English and Scots might therefore be considered sister languages, in much the same way as other closely related pairings, such as Danish and Norwegian, Dutch and German, Irish and Scottish Gaelic, or Spanish and Portuguese.

Scots is the collective name for Scottish dialects such as ‘Glaswegian’, ‘Doric’, ‘Buchan’, ‘Dundonian’, or ‘Shetland’. Taken altogether, Scottish dialects are called the Scots language. Sometimes Scots is known by the names ‘Scotch’, ‘broad or braid Scots’, ‘Doric’ and ‘Lallans’.

Visit the Scottish Language Center at: www.scotslanguage.com/

With many thanks to the newsletter of the St. Andrews Society of Tallahassee (FL), the *St. Andrews Cross*.

Eric King, FSA Scot, is the editor of the *St. Andrews Cross*. Call 850.445.1077 or email: ericking@comcast.net

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

We are sad to report that longtime Clan MacTavish member, **William “Bill” D. MacTavish**, passed away on October 15, 2013.

Clan MacTavish offers our deepest condolences to his wife, Betty, and to his family and friends.



World War II fighter pilot, **William Overstreet Jr.**, who gained fame for flying beneath the Eiffel Tower’s arches in pursuit of a German aircraft, has died. He was 92. He died in a hospital in Roanoke, Virginia.

According to Oakley’s Funeral Home, Overstreet died Sunday at a Roanoke hospital.

Overstreet’s famous flight in Nazi-occupied Paris has been credited with lifting the spirits of French Resistance troops on the ground. In a 2009 ceremony at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, the French ambassador to the United States presented Overstreet with France’s Legion of Honor.

According to his obituary on the funeral home website, Overstreet worked as an accountant until retiring at the age of 65, then worked with numerous charities and veterans groups.

In the spring of 1944 Bill and his P-51C “Berlin Express” were near Paris when the scene that is immortalized in the artwork by Len Krenzler of Action Art that leads this article took place. Bill had followed this Bf 109 from the bombers he was escorting when most of the German fighters left. The two planes had been in a running dogfight. The German pilot flew over Paris hoping that the heavy German anti-aircraft artillery would solve his problem and eliminate Overstreet and the “Berlin Express,” though Bill managed to get some hits in at about 1500 feet. The German’s engine was hit, and Bill stayed on his tail braving the intense enemy flak. His desperation undoubtedly growing, the German pilot aimed his plane at the Eiffel Tower and in a surprising maneuver, flew beneath it. Undeterred, Bill followed right behind him, scoring several more hits in the process. The German plane crashed and Bill escaped the heavy flak around Paris by flying low and full throttle over the river until he had cleared the city’s heavy anti-aircraft batteries.

Rick Conn, Ga State Chairman, GL Veterans Committee



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Query regarding John Ross LOPEZ

From Virginia S. Brooking (brookings@windstream.net)

Seeking 4th-Great-Grandfather's Family of Origin and Scottish Heritage

Known information about

JOHN ROSS LOPEZ / LOPES

Name: **JOHN ROSS LOPEZ / LOPES**

Given Name: **JOHN ROSS**

Surname: Lopez (variant spellings: **LOPES**, **LOPESS**, **LOPAZ** and possibly **LOPER**)

Sex: M *Birth:* 1781 in Perth Amboy, Middlesex Co., New Jersey, US. Military Service: War of 1812 Veteran. Married: **MARY F.** (possibly **FREEMAN**) **MUNDY** (b. abt 1793 NJ d. 16 April 1864, Sullivan Co, PA) Children: Only one – **SARAH ANN LOPEZ** (b. 8 May 1815 poss. NJ d. 23 March 1884 in PA) Married **ROBERT HENLEY** (of Charleston, SC) on 18 Aug 1833 in Cherry Twp. Sullivan Co. PA. Both **SARAH ANN** and **ROBERT HENLEY** buried in Dushore, Sullivan Co. PA in Fairview Cemetery. Their 2 children were **EDMOND HENLEY** and **EVELINA HENLEY** who married **REV. RENALDO GORMAN** of Lycoming/Sullivan Co. PA. Occupation: In 1818, Contractor and Road Builder, Berwick to Elmira Turnpike in East Central PA. Sullivan County PA town of **Lopez** named for **JOHN LOPEZ** and started as a work camp for the turnpike workers and families. Also, Blacksmith, Carpenter, Shoemaker, Cooper, and Farmer. *Death:* 9 Apr 1863 in Shinersville, Cherry Township, Sullivan County, PA, US *Burial:* 1863 Dushore, Cherry Twp, Sullivan Co., PA, US in Fairview Cemetery (near wife and daughter and son-in-law). *Residence:* Aft 1818 Cherry Township, Sullivan County, PA, US (In abt 1812, possibly resided in Piscataway, Middlesex Co. New Jersey.) *Note:* Ancestry: **SCOTTISH**. *Further Possibilities (but sources not referenced)* Parent Possibilities: Parents of **JOHN ROSS LOPEZ / LOPES** (b. 1781 in Perth Amboy NJ) have been identified as **ANTHONY LOPEZ / LOPES** and wife (first name unknown, last name **FRAIZER** or **FRAZEE**). No dates or locations given on these possible parents, except presumably New Jersey in the 1780s. This individual also adds that **JOHN ROSS LOPEZ'S** neighbor in the wilderness in PA was **FREEMAN FAIRCHILD**, also from New Jersey. A second source gives "**ANTHONY LOPEZ AND FRAZIER**" but gives a birth year for

JOHN ROSS LOPEZ as 1788.

Other Possible Surname Spellings:

The surname "**LOPER**" has also been put forward as belonging to **JOHN ROSS LOPEZ**, repeating his same information of military service, work career, wife, child and death date as that of **JOHN LOPER**. This theory suggests that when he moved to Sullivan County PA, **John** adopted the name of **LOPEZ** in place of **LOPER**. This same contributor cites "**LOPER**" individuals listed in "New Jersey Marriages 1665-1800", a New Jersey Index of Wills, and the New Jersey 1793 Militia Census of Males (ages 18-45) for Salem County, Pittsgrove Twp., New Jersey. The militia list as cited does include a **JOHN LOPER**, but my **JOHN LOPEZ** would have been age 2, not 18 or older in 1793. A book citation on cox.net (which I located) does mention a **JOHN LOPER** born in Williamsport in Lycoming Co. PA in 1821. (Sullivan County, PA was erected out of Lycoming County, PA) This **JOHN LOPER's** grandfather is identified as **URIAH LOPER**, millwright, born in New Jersey (date not given). Further, this book from the Mulvane Historical Society traces the **LOPER** name as follows: "Previous generations of **LOPERS** have whaled off Long Island. The forefather of American **LOPERS** was **JOCOBUS LOPER** born in Holland. As commander of a Dutch warship, he was stationed in New Amsterdam, now New York. On June 30, 1647, he married **CORNELIA MELYN**, daughter of **CORNELIUS** and **JANNETJE VAN MYERT MELYN**, New Amsterdam residents."

War of 1812 Military Service

Two undocumented records of military service are given for **JOHN ROSS LOPEZ**: War of 1812 Between 3 Sept and 4 Dec 1814 Corporal, later Sergeant, Captain **ABRAHAM WEBB's** Co., General Colefax's 2nd Infantry Regiment, New Jersey Detailed Militia War of 1812 Between 1 Dec 1812 and 7 Feb 1814 Private, Captain **BIBBY's** Co., **COLONEL DENNISON's** Heavy Artillery, 1st U.S. Infantry [No state given. NJ or PA ?] Any insights or information will be greatly appreciated to help me track my Scottish heritage. Thank you.



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How I Discovered My Inner Scot

Jean Holzapfel, Tallahassee, Florida

I have always liked “Things Scottish” - the bagpipes, Scottish actors and Scottish brogues and Scottish music. My dad always said we were “Scotch, Irish and Welsh,” but I paid little attention to it.

When I was in my late forties, George and I planned our first trip to Scotland. We reserved seats on the train from London and found ourselves sitting across from former Saint Andrew Society member, Bob Hall, who now lives “up north”. He was Mensa smart and told us all about Scottish history and invited us to join the SAS when we returned home.

It turned out I had to have surgery on the Isle of Skye and was there a week. When we returned we called Bob and told him we had been on Skye a week and he said “Nobody stays on Skye for a week”. Then he invited us to a Scottish ceilidh.

Not long after we joined the Saint Andrew Society, Calvin Curry gave a workshop on Genealogy. He said you had to be 50 before you became interested and by then most of your family who could have helped you were dead.

I learned a lot in the class and found that I had at least 5 Scottish surnames in my background. I had never liked my middle name - Douglas - as I thought it was a boy’s name. Now I love it and found I had a great-grandmother Douglass.

Of course George is of German ancestry but his mother was Scandanivian - at any rate he has enjoyed the Saint Andrew Society as much as I have.

Years ago our daughter, Linda, made us name tags that said “Mac” Holzapfel.

After about two years with the Saint Andrew Society, I



Jean and George on the right with another “traveler” in Scotland.

was asked to be Membership Chairman and I enjoyed the job very much - getting to know everyone and participating in everything the Saint Andrew Society did. We loved being in the Springtime Parade and all the activities.

George borrowed a kilt from Bob Hall and we had our pictures taken.

The next time we went to Scotland, George bought the whole outfit and he has really gotten his money’s worth out of it. We also got kilt outfits for our little grandsons so they

could march in parades with us. Now they are in their twenties and feel really at ease in a kilt.

We enjoyed attending all the nearby highland games in Atlanta, Jacksonville, Central Florida, Sarasota. We also loved going on the Scotland Goes to Sea cruises every January and made lots of friends from “up North”.

We met and became wonderful friends with the famous Alexander Brothers, Tom and Jack and Peter Morrison from Scotland who entertained us on the cruises.

We started going to Scotland every other year in the 80s. Sometimes we went on our own on the train staying at bed and breakfast places and sometimes we went on tours. Both were enjoyable and had their advantages.

About this time, the Saint Andrew Society needed a newsletter editor. I didn’t know if I could do it or not but decided to give it a try.

In order to fill the newsletter with interesting articles, I had to do a lot of research, learning as I went.

After planning a trip every other year, I almost knew more about Scotland than places in the US. I exchanged newsletters with every Scottish group in Florida plus some others from around the country.

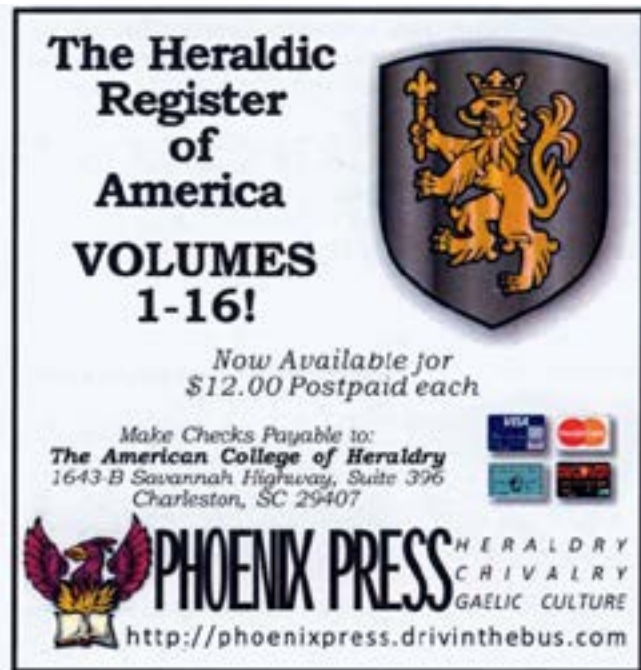


Jean Holzapfel at Edinburgh Castle on a tour with Marti Van Horne and Beth.



Jean Holzapfel, daughter Linda Atherton, George Holzapfel and son, David Holzapfel.

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The new American College of Heraldry address is:

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How I Discovered my Inner Scot, *con't from page 7*

I joined the Douglas, Boyd and Alford Societies and got their newsletters also. I enjoyed doing the Newslette so much that I did it for about 12 years.

After many years of traveling on our own we decided to get up a tour from Tallahassee. In 1996 we got over thirty Saint Andrew Society members to join us.

I told my travel agent I wanted a Scottish tour guide, no an English one, and I preferred one who wore the kilt. We got Fraser Gordon, a graduate of St. Andrews University with a degree in Scottish history who wore the kilt every day. Now you can't get better than that. I planned the itinerary and we had a great tour. We enjoyed it so much that we planned another tour in 1999 which was very successful. We covered Scotland from one end to the other. We learned a lot and formed friendships that brought us close.

We also attended Scottish Weekends held in Moultrie Georgia put on by Beth Gay. These were fabulous week ends with more musical entertainment than you can imagine.

The crowning touch came at the 2010 Tallahassee Highland Games when we were proclaimed The Honored Guests.

So you can see how very much I discovered my inner Scot about 30 years ago. It has been one of the best things that have ever happened to George and me in our early middle age and throughout our retirement years. It has made our life full of enjoyment. I would hope that you would discover your inner Scot too? Come join us!



Have you been awarded your own Arms?

If you have been awarded your own Arms by the Lyon Court in Edinburgh, Scotland, we'd like to feature them in these pages. Just send a note telling us about how and why you were honored plus a rendering of your Arms in color (jpeg files, please) and a copy of your Achievement in any Word format.

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Diana Gabaldon keeps her promise

Back a few years ago, Diana Gabaldon, author of *The Outlander Series*, (which has been on the Best Seller list I think all of this time - and previously too) was the Honored Guest and was awarded the Scottish Heritage Award at Moultrie's Scottish Weekend which was always around Valentine's Day.

At that time, Clan Henderson made Diana an Honorary Member of the clan. Diana promised then that she would get a Henderson character in one of her books.

Now, there are six books in the series - with a seventh either just out or about to be out - and I have read there will be an eighth book too. In addition to: *Outlander*, *Dragonfly in Amber*, *Voyager*, *Drums of Autumn*, *The Fiery Cross* and *A Breath of Snow and Ashes*, Gabaldon has written *The Outlandish Companion* and three books in her The Lord John Grey Series.

I am just reading *A Breath of Snow and Ashes* and was thinking about the promise she made...and would you believe, on the next page there he was! James Henderson is a character in this book. I'll copy a couple of paragraphs from pages 387-388 about our Henderson character:

"Ye'll be wondering, I expect," Cameron said quite casually, "at my presence here?"

Jamie made a slight motion of the shoulders, admitting interest, but indicating a polite lack of inquisition into Cameron's affairs.

Cameron chuckled.

"Aye, well. It's no secret, to be sure. It's James Henderson, is what it is — ye'll ken the name, maybe?"

He did. Henderson had been Chief Justice of the Superior Court in North Carolina — until the Regulation had caused him to leave, climbing out the window of his courthouse and fleeing for his life from a mob bent on violence.

A wealthy man, and one with a due regard for the value of his skin, Henderson had retired from public life and set about increasing his fortune. To which end, he proposed now to buy an enormous tract of land from the Cherokee, this located in Tennessee, and establish townships there.

So, there's a wee taste of our Henderson in one of Diana Gabaldon's books exactly as promised!

There is just a little story about her visit to Moultrie.

I had made arrangements for her to stay at the nicest bed and breakfast in town. So, on Sunday after everything was over and Diana was on her way to the airport in Tallahassee, heading for her home in Flagstaff, Arizona, I went to pick up her rental car and return it to the car dealership.

The proprietress of the B & B had the keys to the car, so, we were visiting for a moment or two when she said, "Oh, that lady that was here left a funny looking book in her bed. Just pages together in

a sort of notebook. I've just put it in the trash."

Over the weekend, Diana and I had laughed about her working industriously for weeks and on the plane and her plans to work herself to sleep.

Proof copy in the trash. Lord, a mercy. Oh, my!

"Ma'm, I need to get that out of the trash and send it to her as quickly as I can," I said, trying not to faint.

"That is Diana's proof copy of her next book that she worked on for the last month or so and as she flew here and obviously before she went to sleep last night."

With that proof copy of her book clutched tightly, I returned the car and immediately upon arriving home, called Diana's home number and left a message, "Your proof copy is ok and will be in the mail to you - the fast way - tomorrow morning when the post office opens."

Whew.

Beth Gay - Freeman
Clan Henderson member #12



Beth & Diana Gabaldon

Clan Skene Association, Inc.

The Clan Skene Association, Inc., invites membership from SKENE and septs CARISON, CARNEY/CARNIE, CURREHILL, DYAS, DYCE, DYER, HALL, HALYARD/HALLYARD, MacGAILLARD, RENNIE & SKAINS.

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James Wilkie

The old Britain is already dead. No matter what the result of the independence referendum may turn out to be, times have changed and there is no way back to a past that has now ceased to be the status quo, and not even a No majority will change that.

A positive vote on the referendum question will immediately throw the issue of Scotland's future status into the international arena. It is here that there are obvious dangers arising from the nation's three centuries of being cut off from the world. Not the least of these dangers arises from the lack of foreign policy expertise on the part of Scottish political leadership at one of the great turning points in our history.

Now, I am well aware of the current importance of the SNP, at least after it had, at the last minute, wakened up sufficiently from its all-or-nothing dream to support devolution. Without the active support of the SNP campaign apparatus, and on a lesser scale those of the LibDems, Greens and SSP, the 1997 referendum campaign for a Yes vote could have floundered.

Only at a very late stage did the SNP awaken to the importance of devolution as a necessary step towards independence. It saw the light only after the Council of Europe, at the instigation of the Scotland-UN Committee, had already forced action on devolution of political power to Scotland and Wales under threat of international sanctions, and up to that stage with no SNP involvement of any kind. If devolution had been left to the SNP, to this day we would still be waiting for the party to gain a majority of the Scottish seats at Westminster. That, however, is now history, and we must now turn our attention to the future. I have supported the SNP government at every turn on its competent handling of domestic issues – an astonishing achievement for a party that had never in its history held government office – while pointing out that it is right out of its depth on diplomacy and foreign affairs.

It is exactly those fields of action that have now moved into a position of central importance for the achievement of independence, and it is here that the major signs of weakness are more than evident. A command of diplomatic nego-

tiation techniques and a comprehensive analysis of contemporary trends and developments on the international scene are the primary functions of government that mark the difference between administering a devolved system and governing an independent state in a global context - especially since the latter has changed out of all recognition within the past 20 years or so.

There is no indication that the Scottish Government and/or its advisers has come anywhere near grasping the fact that we now have global governance (and I mean governance, not government).

Another institution in the same position is the European

Union, which on economic issues and certain others is now to a large extent just a centre for passing on policy decisions taken by the global institutions like the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) or the all-important World Trade Organisation (WTO), which hardly rates a mention in the recent White Paper, amongst its many

other deficiencies on the broader aspects of independence.

It is obvious that the Scottish Government, in view of its lack of on-board expertise on the broader aspects of independence, has been relying extensively on external advice by academic and other consultants.

Now, I am not disparaging academic advisers (I am one myself), but unless their "ivory tower" knowledge is backed up by a good deal of "coal face" and practical "hands-on" experience then their advice is in many cases very limited in application.

Constitution drafting can be carried out at academic level, and the SNP has enough financial (and monetary?) expertise available, but that does not apply to every field of action covering external issues.

In particular, active diplomacy at the intensive level demanded of independence negotiations needs considerable experience of practical negotiation techniques and much else besides.

In any national foreign service the number of people who get to carry out policy formulation and serious negotiation is very limited. Service in an embassy in itself may involve no



Continued on page 15



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more than routine duties like newsgathering and reporting. In diplomatic, intelligence and security services, where knowledge is compartmentalised in progressive stages as well as on a need-to-know basis, mere membership of one of these services is no guarantee of a comprehensive know-how or possession of an overview of the field as a whole.

In my 40-odd years of experience in international affairs, including innumerable one-man special assignments on behalf of the Foreign Minister, I have covered the entire range of policy from A to Z, which is unusual in an age when specialisation is demanded.

For 16 years I brought out my Foreign Policy Yearbook as an official statement of national policy, based on access to the papers of every department in the Ministry.

I served as Rapporteur and Expert on Mission for the United Nations around the world as well as at UN HQ.

I think I have seen every diplomatic trick, and every form of political skulduggery imaginable, as well as some that are not. I had to clear up the debris personally after an espionage disaster, and I had to cope with the notorious Waldheim affair back in the 1980s, when the objectives of an international power struggle hinged on defaming the former United Nations Secretary-General. And a lot more besides.

Some of this is on the Internet, and some will remain secret indefinitely. In the light of hard practical experience I can tell right away from the Government's White Paper that the SNP is being very inadequately advised, or indeed actively manipulated, in those sectors of policy that lie outwith its normal domestic range of expertise, or which demand projections of future global trends and developments, presumably because its advisers in those fields are themselves not up with the latest developments on the international scene.

The SNP's quite inordinate concentration on the sub-regional European Union (Scotland in Europe), (which in reality is very far from being European) is a case in point, especially by comparison with its neglect, due to obvious ignorance, of far more important international organisations.

The SNP has apparently been unduly influenced on EU membership by the so-called European Movement (see membership) (aka Euromove), an organisation set up by the CIA for other foreign policy objectives when Frank G. Wisner was head of covert operations.

How can the SNP tell if the advice it is receiving is competent, or not a malignant stratagem by vested interests?

In this field it itself does not know enough to be able to judge.

As I have repeated incessantly over a period of years, the SNP did not bring about the present national movement in Scotland, because it itself is merely the most prominent symptom of the same, and not its cause.

Having pursued a thankless struggle for three quarters of a century, it is carrying a huge load of outdated baggage from its past, and it is as green as grass on those contemporary aspects of global statesmanship that are now the most vitally necessary for the government of a sovereign independent state. (See Scotland in the World)

The Scottish decision makers simply do not know their field of action once they move onto the international stage – although in their inexperience they may think they do.

We have to support the present Scottish Government towards the achievement of the immediate goal, but not to the extent of allowing it or any other single party to dictate the form of government in Scotland after independence has been achieved.

A lot can be left until constitutional independence has been finally established as an essential basis for everything else, but certain things have to be made clear even at the present stage.

The final result has to be achieved through non-party consensus by the entire Nation of Scots, and not through dictation by persons who imagine

themselves to be possessed of some God-given insight into truths that are a closed book to the common herd.

Even at the present stage we need the devil's advocate, but a constructive one.

Scotland's future must be mapped out by the best brains with the best qualifications and experience that the Nation can assemble, together with reference to the best advice available from external sources, while disregarding political affiliations.

Until that consensus has been achieved, and confirmed by democratic approval, no steps must be taken towards committing the new state to international agreements, memberships or commitments that might prove to be disadvantageous to future generations in the longer term. Independence gives us a glorious and unrepeatable opportunity to make a fresh beginning on first principles.

It should not be thrown away by hasty decisions on a short-term basis, by acceding to manipulation by vested interests or simply the emotive needs of individuals.

The future is a long time, and it is not our prerogative to subject Scots of future generations or even centuries ahead to the consequences of decision making that we have arrived at without regard to its future effects.





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Mail to: Air Marshall Albert C. Eaton, PO Box 530054, Orlando, FL 32853-0054

Flowers of the Forest

Pamela Kay Davidson Nokes has passed away in New Zealand.

The eldest child of The Clan Davidson Clan Chief, Jock, and his wonderful Lady, Mary, has passed away. Their daughter, Pamela Davidson Noakes (Kay), passed away on August 1, 2013, at the age of 59.

Although it's a bit late, letters or cards of condolence would be welcome. Send these to: Jock & Mary Davidson, A415/45 Akoranga Dr., Northcote 0627, New Zealand

The Clan Davidson Association (UK) has sadly lost one of its early members this past October. Many will remember the annual display of memorabilia that he and Mhairi set up every year for a decade at the Clan Davidson Association annual gatherings.

John Dawson enjoyed years of fun, sourcing and creating new items. Behind his old world charm, John was a wonderful character. He trained as a veterinary surgeon at the Royal Dick Institute in post war Edinburgh, and for many years ran his own veterinary practice with Mhairi. He also had a small farm and was a bee keeper. This was a true countryman at heart. John was 81 at the time of his death.

Amongst his many interests was that of heraldry and family history. He managed to trace his Dawson roots back to the 1550s. He was a good writer and for many years, he contributed interesting articles for *The Pheon*. We shall all miss him.

Jane Ellen Montgomery Stiles died in Charleston, South Carolina on Tuesday, October 29, 2013.

Mrs. Jane Ellen Montgomery Stiles, wife of Philip Allen "Al" Stiles, Jr., was born on August 18, 1946 in Syracuse, NY, the beloved daughter of Charles Woodard and Alma Isabelle Montgomery. As the daughter of a career Army officer, she spent her formative years as an Army Junior living

around the country and world. She joined the United States Navy at age 18 and met the love of her life, Allen, while on boot camp liberty. She would give up her career in the Navy to follow her husband as a devoted Navy wife for 27 years.

During that time, she would present to the world a beautiful son, Brian Colin, born in Newport, RI. She would manage a household that required a social secretary, an appointment manager, team mother, scout leader, teacher's aide, and several paying jobs.

In addition, she would teach her son to shave and ride a bike while Al was at sea. Most notably, she would oversee 19 pack-outs and pack-ins as they moved from duty station to duty station during Al's 30 year career.

In 1984, her impact on her family's life and her community was recognized when she was named the Guantanamo Bay Military Spouse of the Year, the first year that designation was bestowed. At the banquet held in her honor, she was the last to realize that the standing ovation was for her. In her typically re-

served style, she would decline to use one of the most coveted tokens of that award, head of the line privileges at the commissary and Navy Exchange!

She and her husband were long time members of the Clan Davidson Association.

Larry Mae Phillips, former Commissioner of the Clan Henderson Society, Inc., for the South Pacific Region, has passed away due to cancer. She was buried at the Sacramento Valley Veteran's Cemetery on 25 October 2013.

She was a stalwart supporter of the Clan Henderson Society in its formative years. She will be missed by her friends, family and clansmen and clanswomen.

Her name has been added to our Memorial Wall on the Clan Henderson Society website. Visit <http://www.clanhendersonsociety.org/memorial/>



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



Chief Steven MacTavish

Family names associated with Clan MacTavish:
Cash, Holmes, Kash, MacCamish, MacCash, MacCavish, MacComb, MacCombie, MacComich, MacComish, 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, Todd, and all variant spellings.

We Are Clan MacTavish!



FORT MYERS REGIONAL LIBRARY

UPCOMING

GENEALOGY PROGRAMS

February – May 2014

Here are the latest listings of upcoming genealogy programs scheduled for Fort Myers Regional Library. All programs are free and open to the public. Advance Registration is required. Registration is required due to limited seating capacity. Patrons may register for the classes using one of the following methods:

1. Telephone: Call 479-4636 and select the option for registering for programs.

2. Telephone: Call Bryan L. Mulcahy at 533-4626 and leave your contact information.

3. E-Mail: Contact Bryan L. Mulcahy at bmulcahy@leegov.com.

4. Online at the Lee County Library System website <http://leelibrary.net> using the “Quicklinks” feature and scrolling down to programs and events.

February Beginners Genealogy Series

Saturday February 1, 8, 15, and 22, 2014

Speaker: Gina Hamister – Western Reserve Historical Society, New England Historical Genealogical Register Board of Directors

Time: 10:00am-12:15pm

Meeting Rooms A & B

Session One: Using Home Sources and Organizing Your Research

Session Two: Fining Your Family in the United States Census

Session Three: Using Court House Resources and Vital Records

Session Four: Using Alternative or Hidden Resources for Locating Ancestors.

Genealogy in the Cloud

Saturday, March 1, 2014

Speaker: Carol Weidlich – Past President and Webmaster – Lee County Genealogical Society

Time: 10:00am-2:30pm

Meeting Rooms A,B,C

As a genealogist, if you use the Internet, you are prob-

ably using cloud computing without even knowing it. Every time you use the Internet to store information, including emails or photos, you are using cloud computing. Our seminar will focus on helping patrons learn how to work, share, safeguard and store your up-to-the-minute family history data—online, but off-site—and access it anytime, anywhere, from any internet-connected device.

Beginners Genealogy Seminar

**Saturday,
March 22, 2014**

Speakers: Carolyn Ford, Lee County Genealogical Society, Bryan Mulcahy, Fort Myers-Regional Library

Time: 9:30am-12:30pm

Meeting Rooms A & B

This one day seminar will introduce the concepts of genealogical research in a concise manner. Attendees will have the opportunity to begin the process of filling out forms, charts, and how to compile family information. We will also discuss the process of learning historical details about the lives of our ancestors. Knowing the historical context often plays a key role in understanding why certain life decisions were made. While the research will involve compiling lists of people, places, and dates, the total experience of learning about their daily lives can help broaden our knowledge about our ancestors. Attendees will have the opportunity to fill out basic research forms such as Family Group Sheets and Pedigree Charts.

DNA: The Latest Advances in DNA and Genetic Genealogy

Saturday, April 26, 2014

Speakers: Ms. Kathleen Callanan - Professional Genealogist – Lee County Genealogical Society and Bryan L. Mulcahy – Reference Librarian – Fort Myers Regional Library

Time: 9:30am – 12:30pm

Meeting Rooms A & B

This seminar will focus on examining the latest Advances in DNA and Genetic Genealogy. We will discuss new tools

Continued on page 23





Clan Elliot Society, USA

Any person of Scottish ancestry bearing the name Elliot in any of its various spellings, including the spouse or descendant of such person, or any person who would like to be a friend of the Elliot Clan is welcome to join the group.

Please contact the treasurer for a membership form or visit <http://www.elliotclanusa.com/> for a form.

The Clan Elliot Society, USA

Treasurer: Patricia Tennyson Bell
2984 Siskiyou Boulevard
Medford, OR 97504

Clan Gregor Society

Sir Malcolm
MacGregor of MacGregor
7th Baronet of Lanrick
and Balquidder,
24th Chief of Clan Gregor
*Great Lakes, New England,
Pacific North West, Western U.S.
and Southeast Chapters*

www.clangregor.org



For membership contact:
PO Box 393,
Stone Mountain, GA 30083
Ms. Ishbel McGregor,
Secretary,
Mo Dhachaidh,
2 Breachhead Alloa,
Clackmannanshire,
FW102EW, Scotland

Visit the Clan Macfie FaceBook page

Glen Cathey has recently put up
The Official Clan Macfie FaceBook page
and it is ready for you to join and participate.
You can see some Youtube of the Clan Parliament at
Nethybridge. This is the link: [http://www.facebook.com/pages/
The-Official-Clan-Macfie-Page/177565770680](http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Official-Clan-Macfie-Page/177565770680)

Clan Crawford Association

Incorporated to serve our members worldwide to preserve our legacy. Our Associates can assist you with surname related activities including events, DNA genealogy, heraldry, surname history and more.

Ralf Smart, Director, SE
803-425-5316 or general_ly@yahoo.com or
www.clancrawford.org



It has been taught in Scottish schools for generations and is world-famous...

Thanks to *The Scotsman* and Alastair McIntyre

by Kate Foster

...for its boisterous reels and jigs and its smooth strathspeys.

But new research suggests that Scottish country dancing could also delay the ageing process. Older women who regularly take part in Scottish country dancing are fitter than those of the same age who carry out other forms of exercise, scientists have found.

The researchers believe the skipping and step-changing of the lively activity can “delay the effects of ageing” on women’s ability to carry out daily physical activities.

Scottish country dancing – from ceilidhs and parties to classes and competitions – is a popular event across Scotland and the globe.

Taught in school gym halls for decades, its best-known dances include the *Dashing White Sergeant*, the *Eightsome Reel*, the *Gay Gordons*, and *Strip The Willow*.

Now a study by the University of Strathclyde and the Active Ageing Research Group at the University of Cumbria has found that participating can help women retain their youthfulness.

Their study tested the fitness levels of women who took part in Scottish country dancing, to women who did walking, swimming and yoga.

It compared a group of 26 Scottish country dancers, with at least ten years of experience, with a group of 34 healthy, physically active women who did not participate in Scottish country dancing. All the women were in their 60s and 70s and did the same amount of physical exercise each week.

The dancers and non-dancers in their 60s had similar levels of fitness. However, the dancers in their 70s were just as fit as those in their 60s. But the women in their 70s who did not dance were less fit than younger counterparts.

The scientists say Scottish country dancing prevented the age-related decline in fitness that would usually be expected of women in their 70s.

They believe the specific movements in Scottish country dance – forwards and sideways, turning and spinning to

different rhythms during different set dances – trains the body to remain strong and responsive.

Dr Susan Dewhurst, lead researcher and an exercise physiologist at the University of Cumbria, said: “The group

of women who did not participate in Scottish country dancing followed the normal age-related decline in their functional fitness that would be expected. However, they were very active, doing walking, yoga and swimming.

“Scottish country dancing delayed or prevented this age-related decline. This is thought to be because of the movement patterns involved, such as turning, hopping and stepping which are more challenging than walking or swimming.”

“It encourages upright posture and keeps muscles strong and responsive. The social aspect makes it a fun way to support

healthy ageing because when there’s a social element people are more likely to stick with it.”

The women were tested on how far they could walk in a few minutes, how fast they could cover six metres and how far they could reach towards their toes while seated.

These tests were designed to mimic daily tasks such as crossing the road and getting out of a chair, which become more difficult as people get older.

The study, published in the *Journal of Aging and Physical Activity*, concluded: “Scottish country dance can delay the effects of aging on locomotion-related functional abilities.”

The authors add that physical degeneration, a consequence of older age, severely affects quality of life and puts a strain on health services. But regular physical activity, however, can lessen the potentially disabling effects of ageing.

Scottish country dancing became popular during the 18th century but although country dancing has its origins in folk dance, its Scottish form was enjoyed by the wealthier

Continued on page 23



Clan Forrester

Society

Come - Join the Forresters!

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

Contact: **Ben Forrester**,
Membership Chairman

1034 Blue Heron Drive - Commerce, GA 30529

Phone: 706-335-7688

Email: benbf@windstream.net



FOSTER SURNAME DNA Project

Genealogy Research on Foster / Forster / Forrester / Forester /
Foerster / Forestier / Forister / Forrister / Vorsler / Voster Families.

In search of Victorian Scotland

The men who drew the original Ordnance Survey maps of Victorian Scotland did more than just make maps - in their surveys around the country they compiled "name books" of the places and buildings they encountered. These books, which include "descriptive remarks or other general observations which may be considered of interest" form a unique resource for exploring Scotland of the late 1800s. They have now been digitized and made available online at www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk

Now you can really "walk" Culloden

The new Culloden Battlefield Path opened late last summer. The six mile signposted path winds through the area surrounding the battlefield, linking sites such as the Cumberland Stone and the Culloden Holy Well. The pathway is equipped with benches and explanatory signboards exploring various aspects of the area's history. Maps to the Culloden Battlefield Path are available in the battlefield visitor's center.



Scottish Country Dancing, *con't* from page 21

and more educated classes of the Renaissance.

Elizabeth Foster, executive officer, of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS) welcomed the research.

She said: "This adds to a growing bank of evidence that points to the overall health benefits of Scottish country dancing. In particular, it supports other studies which show that Scottish country dancing is superior to other forms of physical activity in building and maintaining levels of fitness and mobility."

She added: "The RSCDS Health Strategy, which was developed in response to many proven health benefits, encourages those with a range of health issues or people who are looking to improve their fitness to be actively involved in Scottish country dance."

A clean and shiny Bruce is back!

The equestrian bronze statue of Robert the Bruce, gazing out across the Bannockburn battlefield with battle-axe at the ready, has been now returned to its pedestal, having been fully cleaned and refurbished in preparation for the 700th anniversary of the battle coming up this June.

With many thanks to *Six Nations, One Soul*, The Newsletter of the Celtic League American Branch. Visit their website at www.celticleague.net



**Genealogy
Seminars,
continued
from page 19**

German Resources at the Fort Myers Regional Library

Saturday, May 3, 2014

Speaker: Bryan L. Mulcahy – Reference Librarian – Fort Myers Regional Library. Presented By The South West Florida Germanic Genealogy Society

Time: 10:00am-Noon

Meeting Rooms A & B

We will discuss genealogical research opportunities at the new Fort Myers Regional Library. The seminar will feature a tour of the new Genealogy Department with special emphasis on resources of interest to German speaking ancestors. For registration information, please visit the following website link <http://swflgg.org/contact.php>.

Long Distance Genealogical Research

Saturday, June 14, 2014

Speaker: Bryan L. Mulcahy – Reference Librarian – Fort Myers Regional Library

Time: 9:30am – 12:30pm

Locating genealogical information about ancestors presents many challenges. When you live hundreds or thousands of miles from their place of residence, it sometimes feels impossible. This seminar will focus on options that researchers may use when trying to conduct genealogical searches in other parts of the United States and overseas.

**If you do not find your clan ad in this
publication, please contact Beth at
bethscribble@aol.com**

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Send anytime, the notice will be
published in the next issue.**



Elliot Clan Society, USA

Membership Information 2012

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 Elliots 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

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: dublincolleen@sbcglobal.net

Write: 2984 Siskiyou Boulevard
Medford, Oregon 97504

(Fortiter Et Recte)
Boldly and Rightly



Glencoe, 13 February 1692 - until 13 February 2014 - 322 years

There's a story about a Macdonald and a Campbell who had been childhood friends. All of a sudden, the Macdonald would not speak to the Campbell nor even acknowledge his presence. Hurt and worried, the Campbell just walked up to the Macdonald and asked, "My dear old friend, what in the world is the matter?"

The Macdonald replied, "Ah, it's the massacre of Glencoe under the command of a Campbell."

"But that has been more than 300 years ago," replied the Campbell.

"Aye, but I just learned about it last week," replied the Macdonald as he turned and walked away.

If you have studied this sad event, you know that Robert Campbell of Glenlyon did command the government force that perpetuated this horrible event. At the library at the Clan Donald Centre on Skye, I've read the letter from Glenlyon to Robert Campbell which threatened him with ruin if he did not follow his orders.

Most of the soldiers in the unit which were under Glenlyon's command did not bear the name of Campbell. It was government policy that killed the Macdonald's of Glencoe, not clan hostility.

The 12th Chief of Glencoe, the "old" MacIain Macdonald, was late in showing up to give his oath of submission before 1 January 1692 at Inverrary. There are more than one version of what happened: One way he misread the proclamation, others way it because of snowstorms, but John Prebble wrote in his book, Glencoe, that it was MacIain's pride that made him show up at Inverlochy 24 hours before the deadline in an attempt to have the oath administered by Colonel John Hill, governor of Lochaber.

Properly, the oath should have been administered by Campbell of Ardkinglas at Inverrary which was several days to the south.

It was thought shameful to have one of the Clan Donald Chieftains give oath to a Campbell Sheriff in a Campbell town.

MacIain arrived at Inverrary on the 2nd of January only to discover that Ardkinglas was away and did not re-

turn until the 5th of January. He did accept the oath the next day and assured MacIain - known as the "Auld Fox," the protection of the Garrison at Fort William.

That oath was not accepted when it reached Edinburgh and the official reason was given its tardiness.

As with most events, there was much more to the story than being late. Clan Abrach of Glencoe, founded in 1314, through the marriage of John MacDonald of Lochaber and the daughter of Dugald, the last Henderson Chief, was known far and wide as being made up of notorious raiders and cattle thieves.

In those days, in the Highlands, this was completely normal behavior. It was not at all acceptable to the government in Edinburgh.

Many believed that Clan Abrach were Catholics during the reign of Protestant King William. The author, John Prebble, writes that the Glencoe men were Catholics, but other sources say this was a misapprehension on the part of the Master of Stair. Truly, it is also said, the people of Glencoe were and still are Epis-

copalian Protestants. The Master of Stair did believe Glencoe to be Catholic and MacIain's late oath provided an excuse to wipe out this group.

It was on January 30, 1392 that Colonel Hill at Fort William received the John Dalrymple letter. Dalrymple was, of course, Master of Stair.

The letter read, "Let it be secret and suddain otherwayes the men will shift you."

It was Robert Campbell of Glenlyon with 120 men from Argyll's government force who was dispatched to Glencoe to take shelter with the people there. Their excuse was there was lack of room at Fort William.

MacIain, feeling safe because of the reassurances of Ardkinglas, received the troops and extended the customary Highland hospitality.

If you ever visit Glencoe, be sure and see The Henderson Stone. It is now located in a farmer's field, but he is kind enough to let folks come and see and touch this

Continued on page 27





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 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.

relic of those horrific times.

The story told from then til now to Macdonalds is that one of the soldiers had learned of the orders given to Glenlyon. The soldier invited his host to walk with him in the gloaming. When they came to a large stone in their path, the soldier said, "Stone of the glen, you have every right to be where you are, but if you could be knowing what will happen here tonight, it is not here you would be staying."

Remember, the soldier was under the oath of secrecy and could not say any more. I get goosebumps and cry whenever I am there.

MacIain was told of the warning, but could not believe anything would happen since his oath had been taken by Ardkinglas.

Two of MacIain's sons stayed awake that night out of suspicion and were able to help organize the escape for many of the rest of the clan.

It began at 5 o'clock in the morning on February 13. There was a snowstorm which might have helped many of the clan escape. There were thirty-eight killed including MacIain who was said to have been shot in the head while calling for a dram to be brought to his murderers.

According to a Henderson descendant, twenty-two Hendersons were killed while they fought to hold off some of the troops.

This morning's massacre was called *Murder Under Trust* - as the Highland tradition was that even enemies could claim sanctuary with another clan and that during that time, hostilities would not be permitted nor attempted.

Revulsion and condemnation spread throughout Scotland and much of the rest of Europe when news of this murder under trust was heard.

The fact that a Campbell had led the government troops has given Clan Campbell an extra burden of distrust from

then until now - although anyone may see it was government policy that ordered the killings carried out.

It was called also The Death of the Clan System since the trust between enemies during times of need was no more.

During the massacre, there was a woman who had hidden in a bread oven because she was expecting a baby and could not run. The stresses of the terrible happenings caused that baby to be born then and there in the cold and terror. There had been a group of drovers staying with the Glencoe people...and they were escaping as fast as they could. The mother thrust her brand new baby into the arms of one of the drovers...and the baby disappeared into the snow and oblivion as it was never known what happened to the child.

There is a song about this story called "The Massacre of Glencoe." If you can find a copy of Alex Beaton's rendition, it will make you cry.

At Glencoe are three islands. One is the Burial Isle, one is the Council Isle and the other is a place where should two Glencoe inhabitants have an argument, they would be put until they could work everything out to mutual satisfaction. To reach the Burial Isle, you must take a small boat, at low tide you scramble up a muddy bank via a rope...but then, it is so very sad. The tradition is that the last soul buried there must remain on guard until the next burial. When I was there, there had not been a new burial in about fifty years. I learned that the Auld Fox, MacIain had been buried in an unmarked grave to keep the English from coming and taking his body to put it on display.

At Glencoe Memorial Services, there are always thirty eight red roses given for each of those who perished at the hands of the soldiers or in the snow. There is always one more red rose given for the death of the clan system.



Island for sale by Archibald Angus Charles Kennedy, Chief of Clan Kennedy

The winter sport of curling is tremendously popular in Scotland and Canada, though unfamiliar to many in the United States. Not any stone will do for the sport of curling. The Olympic stones are made from a special fine-grained micro-granite quarried from the remote Scottish island of Ailsa Craig. They come in two varieties, blue and green. Smoothed and polished, the granite is quite beautiful and exhibits of curling stones may be found in many Scottish and Canadian museums. Ailsa Craig is not easy to spot on a map, but if you drew

a straight line from Belfast to Glasgow, Ailsa Craig would be right in the middle.

Archibald Angus Charles Kennedy, 8th Marquess of Ailsa, currently owns the island, but has it for sale at a reduced price of \$2.4 million. There is no habitation or living amenities on Ailsa Craig, but the owner would have a world monopoly on curling stones. Once present stocks run out, that is. The last load of stone was quarried in 1969 and they are still shaping stones from that stock.

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.

Contact

**Ronald John
McCord**

President/Chief
1805 Mews Drive
Wilmington, NC 28405
Ph. 919-256-3798 or
rjmccord@ec.rr.



Clan Home Society (International)

Cordially invites membership inquiries
worldwide from all HOME, HUME & SEPT

Information about
The Clan Home Air Force,
contact aeaton@cfl.rr.com



For information and application, write to:
Camille Simmons, President
1205 Avery Way
Kernersville, NC 27284
cbsimmons@earthlink.net

Valentines Day in Scotland

Found on the Internet from Scotland and Cupid

Valentines Day in Scotland is certainly a time of celebration. On the 14th of February every year, thousands of people, young and old, check their mail to see if they've been sent a Valentines Card. It's a day when Love is declared.

The history of St Valentine's Day dates back to Roman times when St Valentine was martyred for refusing to give up his Christian faith.

It is believed that on the night before he died, he left a wee note to the jailer's daughter signed 'Your Valentine'. He died on 14th February which some see as the onset of spring, with new buds and spring flowers shooting through the winter ground; and this is a time traditionally associated with finding new love. But February 14th has become a time when couples demonstrate their love by exchanging cards and gifts. Some will become engaged to be married, while others will choose that day to marry.

It is believed that the remains of St Valentine's remains are in the church of Blessed St John Duns Scotus in Glasgow, a little-known fact that has led to Glasgow styling itself as the 'City of Love' in recent years.

Scotland's reputation for romantic venues is already well known throughout the world. Indeed the small village of Gretna Green is famous around the world as THE place for romantic weddings. It is the first village over the Scottish border on the road from England to Glasgow. It is particularly renowned for being the place where young English couples in particular eloped; as English Law said they could not marry until they were 18 years old, whereas in Scotland marriage is allowed at 16.

Of course, the "romance" of marrying in a romantic Scottish Castle has appealed to many couples from around the world, and many celebrities such as Madonna have chosen to do this. She got married in the exclusive Stobo Castle, once home to the great Philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, who was born in Dunfermline in Fife.

Tradition of Valentine's Day in Scotland

For Valentines Day in Scotland, people give or send

cards to their loved ones with special Valentine messages. These cards are popularly known as "Valentines" and are often sent anonymously. Cards are designed with lovely red hearts, and Valentine special symbols to reflect love and trust. On that day people eagerly wait for the postman to deliver their Valentine's card.

Craze and passion for Valentine's Day is seen in the shops and stores soon after Christmas, and definitely just after New Year. Although the next celebration after Hogmanay is Burns Night on 25th January, shopkeepers, hoteliers and restaurant owners all try to cash in on the romantic occasion

of Valentine's Day, and evidence of their marketing is EVERYWHERE, with cards, gifts, special offers at hotels and special meal-deals.

Even young folk still at school people, join in the tradition buying or making making Valentine cards for the boy or girl who has 'caught their eye'. The cards are often filled with valentine poems and verses. Sometimes, they also write poems on the envelope to speed up the delivery by the postman. Indeed I remember as a youngster sending a Valentine's card where every white space imaginable

was covered in verse, both romantic and funny; and of course for the young - the tradition was that you never signed it. It was up to the person you sent it to to guess who it was from. If, you got more than one valentine card, then your confidence rose indeed.

Celebrating Valentine's Day

Valentines Day in Scotland is often celebrated by a romantic candlelight dinner in a restaurant or hotel, or sometimes one makes the other a special meal at home. The couple exchange gifts and cards and do what they can to make the other feel loved and special. Of course, being whipped away to a Castle Hotel with a 4 Poster Bed, and being served a Champagne Breakfast in bed, is indeed something special!

The traditional gifts exchanged are, of course, red roses and heart-shaped chocolates; these are always popular, but other more imaginative gifts are also given. If you love being creative, why not make some delightful Valentine Ornaments.



Clan Bell International



This old West Marche Clan, one of the Border Clans since the early 1100s, were retainers of the Great House of Douglas and also allied with the best border families through blood and friendship. Their land holdings were extensive, and to survive, they engaged in the “rieving” of the period and participated in many battles against the English.

Declared “unruly” by the Scottish Parliament, many of the Clan Bell emigrated to the Ulster Plantation after 1610.

After William Bell, called *Redcloak* and Chief of the Clan, died in 1628, the chiefship became dormant and without its leadership, the Bells ceased to exist as a viable Clan.

Clan Bell International (CBI) in the United States represents Clan Bell worldwide with a coordinated network of 20 International Representatives, each representing the Clan in their own country.

CBI is a charitable organization of Scottish descendants and friends of Family/Clan Bell dedicated to the study of Bell genealogy and Scottish history and the perpetuation of family tradition.

CBI cordially invites membership inquiries from persons named Bell (all spellings), their descendants and friends. Quarterly newsletter published. Tents hosted at major Scottish festivals from coast to coast.

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Mary Lou Nicolson Klimek awarded Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Award

Clan MacNicol Co-Commissioner for Canada, Mary Lou Nicolson Klimek, is familiar to many Nicolson clan members for her attendance at many games and for organizing the 2010 International Gathering in Vancouver.

Recently, Mary Lou received a notable award, the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal for her work on Huntington Disease.

Many years ago, she was asked to be Medical Liaison to a group looking to obtain resources to help families coping with a member suffering from Huntington's Disease. This cruel disease causes uncontrolled muscle movements and brain damage; its most well-known sufferer was the singer Woody Guthrie.

In her role as Movement Disorders Clinic Nurse, Mary Lou coordinated Huntington Disease clinics and worked to obtain community resources.

While working at the Rockefeller University in New York, she was a member of the HDSA Board.

Upon her return to Canada, she became coordinator of Huntington Disease clinical genetic research at the University of Calgary and is now a volunteer with the Southern Alberta Chapter of the Huntington Society of Canada.

The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal commemorates the 60th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne of Great Britain and was awarded to Canadians who have given dedicated service to their peers, the community and to Canada.

The Clan MacNicol is proud to have such a worthy member. Congratulations from us all, Mary Lou.

The obverse of the award depicts a crowned image of the Sovereign, in whose name the medal is bestowed. The reverse marks the sixtieth, or diamond, anniversary of the accession to the Throne of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The anniversary is expressed by the central diamond shape, by the background composed of a pattern of diamonds, and by the two dates. The Royal Cypher consists of the Royal Crown above the letters EIIR (i.e., Elizabeth II Regina, the latter word meaning Queen in Latin). The maple leaves refer to Canada, while the motto VIVAT REGINA means "Long live The Queen!"



Ireland's Clontarf 1000th anniversary in April 2014

The one thousandth anniversary of the battle of Clontarf is coming up this April and a variety of events are being planned to commemorate one of the defining events in Irish history. On Good Friday, 23 April 2014, an army led by Brian Boru, High King of Ireland, clashed along the banks of the river Tolka with a coalition led by Mael Morda, King of Leinster and Viking King Sitric "Silkbeard" of Dublin, and their allies from Orkney and the Isle of Mann. Brian's victory marked the beginning of the decline of Norse control and the resurgence of a Gaelic Irish nation, but ended in tragedy as Brian was slain at the very moment of his triumph.

Jimmy Deenihan, Minister for the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, is planning a program of events that will include tours, battle re-enactments and a two-day conference at Trinity College, Dublin. Keeping things even handed, there will be links to events in Reykjavik, Iceland and the Icelandic author Vilborg Davidsdottir will be writer-in-residence at the Red Stables in St. Anne's Park during this coming May and June.

The winners will have more fun, however: a global reunion of the O'Brien clan will culminate with an O'Brien clan banquet in Dublin Castle on 23 April, presided over by the clan's head Conor, The O'Brien, Prince of Thomond, Chief of the Name. Interestingly, recent research into the actual location of the battle's "Bloody Acre" places it within Glasnevin rather than present day Contarf.

With thanks to The Celtic League, founded in Wales in 1961. Contact them by writing Stephen Paul DeVillo, 313 East 201st St., Bronx, NY 10458. You may email SPDeVillo@earthlink.net



clankeithusa.org

Official website of The Clan Keith Society USA, Inc



CLAN KEITH SOCIETY USA, INC.

Cordially invites membership inquiries from all descendants of the Keiths and Clan Septs: *Austin, Dickson, Falconer, Hackson, Harvey, Haxton, Hervey, Hurry, Keith, Kite, Lumgair, Mackeith, Marshall, Urie, Urry, etc. (many spelling variations)*

If you see the Clan Keith Society USA, Inc. tent at a Highland Games anywhere...be sure and come by to visit.

Alice M. Hattenbrun, Secretary
The Clan Keith Society, USA, Inc.

119 South RD., Kensington, NH 03833

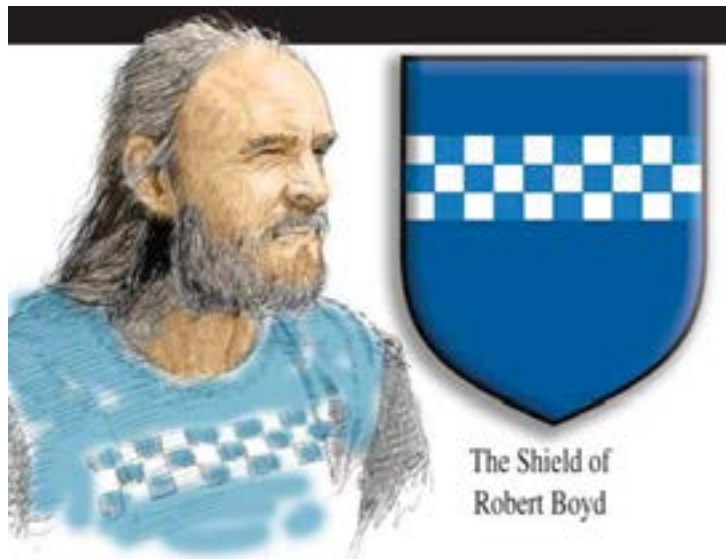


www.clankeithusa.org

The Clan Keith Society USA, Inc., is a proud Border Clan with a fascinating history.

The best way to learn of the Borderers in general and the Clan Keith Society in particular is to join this group.

Membership is by "name/s carried" and it is not expensive - but one of the finest investments you will ever make! Contact Clan Keith USA today.



The Shield of
Robert Boyd

A lifelong friend and close lieutenant to Robert the Bruce, Sir Robert Boyd heroically defended Castle Kildrummy and was an exemplar to all in the Scots' cause. He survived the years and faced harsh dangers in taking his country back from the English kings, and fought alongside his family's Stewart kinsmen at the Battle of Bannok Burn.

The epic story unfolds before you in the historical *Rebel King* novels. See them here:

REBELKING.COM



Latta Plantation Celtic Festival

March 15th and 16th

Huntersville, NC

Mecklenburg County Park

It is free to any Clan or Society that would like to participate. You will need to provide your own tent, table, and chairs. Don't miss this wonderful season opener, last year they had over 3000 attendees.

Contact: Matthew Waisner

mwaisner@lattaplantation.org

(704) 875 2312 Ext. 305

Clan Blair Society

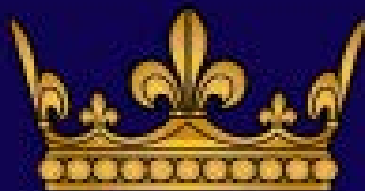
Membership cordially invited from Blair
descendants
and other interested parties.

www.clanblair.org

President Clan Blair Society: Jim Blair
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