



Vol. III No. 12 *Beth's Newfangled Family Tree* Section A May 2010

Devastation on MacRae Meadows

**Frank Vance,
General Manager Grandfather
Mountain Highland Games**

As you can see from the pictures on the right, the ice storm that came through Avery County on Christmas Eve / Christmas Day of 2009 devastated the landscape of MacRae Meadows. Although the damage was felt across the region, higher elevations caught the worst part of the storm as freezing rain changed over to solid ice. The freezing of the sap, combined with two to three inches of ice on every branch of every tree, produced a scene that looks more like a war zone than the serene meadow that we know and love.

In our attempt to prepare and plan for this year's Games, the clean-up from this storm has, to say the least, caught us off guard financially. Even with the use of volunteers to assist with ground clearance, estimates for professional limb removal are in the \$16,000 - \$20,000 range. At this time our greatest concern is not the limbs on the ground, but rather the broken and damaged limbs that remain in the tree canopies (affectionately known as "Widow Makers"). These limbs must be removed by a licensed and insured professional before we can safely allow our volunteers to clear the grounds.

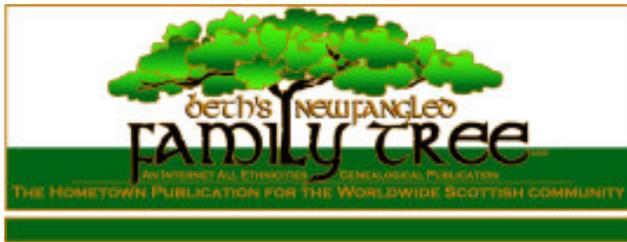
In addition to the trees on the Meadow, the Games has also experienced some unexpected pruning of our schedule for 2010. Although attendance and revenue from the events on the mountain have proven steady for the past couple of years, in spite of the overall



economic downturn, the satellite events held off the mountain have not seen similar success. For this reason, the GMHG Board has made some difficult scheduling decisions, including cancellation of the Ceilidhs at Lees-McRae, the Golf Tournament, the Alex Beaton

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It took Leonardo Da Vinci 10 years to paint Mona Lisa's lips.



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**Purring would
seem to be,
in their case,
an overflow valve
for happiness.**

Peggie Hairy Cat Freeman and Angus Wangus Fangus Cat Freeman.

Peggie Hairy is an American Shorthair (Mutt Cat) of the Orange Persuasion and Angus is aristocratically a Chartrouse whose family is from France.

Miss Narra is away at the Cat Spa and Peggie Hairy and Angus have been attempting to do her duties in her absence. Both of them are exhausted and have not been able to nap more than 23 1/2 hours any day since she has been away.

A letter from your editor....

Close knit are we

The Internet has changed our lives. Remember when you had to wait til late in the evening to phone a friend in a far away place? Remember when you had to wait a week or so to get a letter from a favorite cousin or a friend? Remember when it was hard to let folks know about the things that happen in our lives...the good and the bad.

In far off times the results of battles were sometimes not known for months. Before the telegraph lines were strung, sometimes it was weeks, if not months, until folks in California knew what was going on in New York - and vice versa. The Pony Express could carry only so much mail...and it was not assured that the mail they did carry would make it through.

When I think of the Pony Express I think of the time that Bit & Spur Saddle Club in Jacksonville, Florida somehow agreed to race the mail trucks from Jacksonville to Jacksonville Beach - about 25 miles. There were half a dozen "Express Riders" and horses. (Of course, I wouldn't miss something like this!) I remember Gene Glessner had a big truck that would carry six horses...and we all crowded in the back with our four-legged cohorts...laughing and having a big time.

One of us would unload, jump aboard our horse, grab the mail sack from the incoming rider...and take off at top speed right down the side of the highway which was filled with traffic - mostly at almost a standstill. The truck would follow us down the shoulder of the road...and on the road if there was ever room...and we'd do it all over again. What fun!

Oh, we beat the mail truck by an hour or so since it was stuck in all that traffic.

I digress. Today, email can let us know almost instantly what's happening with our friends. Nowhere is that more important than in our small-town but worldwide Scottish community.

In this issue, there is news from Grandfather Mountain that they are in a financial pickle...clearing the debris from the fierce storm that came through last Christmas...news from friends asking for our prayers because one of them is in a physical scary place...news from lots of other folks who want everyone to know about events and things that they hope at least some of us will share with them.

Both of us are members of The Kingdome of Raknar. We frequently hear from "JayHawk" who keeps all of the membership apprised of who's ill, who has graduated, who has died - all of the important things that happen in our circle of friends. Some of us are so fortunate as they can go and help our Raknar friends during their time of crisis. Some of us can actually be present at a funeral of a beloved friend...because they knew about things that were happening when they happened.

I know that our Scottish community will help Grandfather Mountain with the huge cost of cleaning up and making safe the lovely MacRae Meadows.



Frank Vance, General Manager of Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, told me yesterday, "Beth, if everyone who loves Grandfather Mountain will just send us a few dollars to help with this, we'll be fine."

As I was doing my miles on the running track last night, I thought about Mr. Vance and what his statement meant. Isn't it wonderful that we all belong to a widespread Scottish community which will come to the aid of a Highland Games?

I spent almost 17 years having to ask my readers for financial support for the publication I did at a nonprofit entity. The readers never, ever failed me. It was me who decided that I had asked all the times that I could ask...and even today I have folks who say, "Oh, Beth, you could have always called on me."

It makes me cry to think of all the kindnesses I have been blessed with and the friends I have made.

Our world has surely changed. Some of the changes aren't so wonderful. Some of the changes are breathtakingly grand.

Nobody hesitates to ask friends for their thoughts and prayers today. Nobody doubts that good things will be accomplished if everyone helps just a little bit.

I've written this many times before, but it is still as true as it has ever been: Isn't it amazing what we can do if we all work together.

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The William Wallace Safe Conduct Letter

*Campaign to get the
William Wallace Safe Conduct Letter
returned to Scotland*

David P Elliot



Many people know William Wallace as a consequence of the film 'Braveheart' which starred Mel Gibson. An entertaining film but not really a particularly accurate portrayal of this Scottish hero who fought and died in a particularly barbaric way, to keep Scotland free.

He was the Guardian of Scotland and was kidnapped and murdered by men acting on behalf of King Edward I. The description of his death by "Hanging, Drawing and Quartering" is stomach churning and it actually defies belief that when offered a way out of this horrific ordeal he refused to take it. I describe the event in some detail in my novel 'CLAN'.

All that was necessary for him to do to save himself from this hugely lengthy and painful ordeal was to promise fealty to Edward I and admit his treason. His response that, he had never sworn allegiance to Edward and therefore could not have committed treason against him, ensured that he would die the horrendous death that he did.

At the time of his capture however, he was carrying a letter which is currently being held at the English national archives in Surrey.

The letter is known as the 'safe conduct letter'

and was written by the King of France. It is the only confirmed personal possession of this great Scottish patriot in existence.

Sadly, we can't see it, as it is hidden away in a drawer at the English records office at Kew.

It seems to me that it is appalling that an artefact of such important historical significance to the people of Scotland is being held in Kew. Not only that, but it isn't even being displayed!

The letter along with the great man himself were unjustly removed from Scotland, he was murdered and it is in effect stolen property. It should be returned to Scotland for display in the National Museum in Edinburgh, so that all Scottish people and visitors from around the World can view this historic document.

If you would like to help - there is an e-petition that you can sign asking for its return at the [Scottish Parliament Site](http://www.scottish.parliament.gov.uk).

Image courtesy of Google Images

Sign the petition at:

http://epetitions.scottish.parliament.uk/view_petition.asp?PetitionID=382

To subscribe to David P. Elliot's newsletter, visit:

<http://clanmagazine.com/issue/april-2010/>

William Wallace Airport to replace Edinburgh and Glasgow airports

Alastair Dalton

A new Scottish international air hub at the heart of the country is to be built to replace Edinburgh and Glasgow airports, 'The Scotsman' can reveal.

Visitors to Scotland would be treated to stunning views of the site of the Battle of Bannockburn as they flew in. Picture: Esme Allen Ministers believe the complex, near Stirling, would give arriving visitors an unforgettable first view of Scotland, as planes swooped in over the Wallace Monument and Ochil Hills.

American tourists flying in from the west would also get a bird's-eye view of the site of the Battle of Bannockburn, where the English were defeated in 1314.

The SNP government plans to further maximise the patriotic potential of the development by naming the airport William Wallace International. Ministers had considered calling it Sean Connery International, but dropped the idea because the film star's expatriate status might encourage more people to holiday abroad, rather than at home. However, it is understood actor Mel Gibson has agreed to provide announcements for lifts in the terminal, which will include a welcome to "Braveheart country".

A new airport, equidistant from Scotland's two main cities, is seen as a better alternative to the current competition between Edinburgh and Glasgow airports. Officials are planning to push the sale of the two facilities and use the value of the land as seed funding for the construction of Wallace International.

Starting afresh would also enable the construction of twin runways long enough for Airbus A380 superjumbos – which neither Edinburgh or Glasgow can accommodate.

First Minister Alex Salmond is anxious Scotland is not be left behind after the Emirates airline announced yesterday that it is to start operating the aircraft from Manchester.

Wallace International is seen as a centrally placed location with good road and rail links. It would be able to take advantage of the £1 billion scheme to electrify rail lines across the Central Belt as far north as Dunblane, to be completed in 2016. A new airport station would be built on the Alloa line which borders the site and would become the Scottish National Air

and Rail Link (Snarl) – which the Nationalists will claim as their own after successfully ditching the Edinburgh and Glasgow airport rail links (Earl and Garl), planned by their predecessors. Ministers hope that the airport could become "Scotland's Heathrow" under independence, able to compete as an alternative to



the London hub, whose third runway plans face major opposition.

Welcoming the plans, Professor Hugh Fellforit, a transport expert at Aberdeen University, said: "Scotland needs a smarter approach to airport development that better serves the whole country. To build one on this site would be breathtaking." The project builds on a series of previous studies into a new Central Scotland airport.

The Scottish Office identified nearby Airth as an option in 1959, which was revisited in a 2002 white paper.

The development could be followed by plans to redevelop Stirling Albion's Forthbank ground to become Scotland's new national stadium for both football and rugby to replace both Hampden and Murrayfield.

Football legend Alan Hansen, who is from nearby Sauchie, said: "This is a truly visionary plan which would transform my home turf. It could even help Scotland to win a future bid to host the World Cup."

With thanks to <http://www.electricscotland.com>

13th Annual Alabama Writers Symposium, *Literature on Location - the Muse of Place* set for April 29 -May 1

Carolyn Haines and Ralph Voss to be honored

The Alabama Writers Symposium celebrates its thirteenth anniversary in Monroeville, Alabama Thursday, April 29 through Saturday, May 1, 2010. This year's symposium explores the theme *Literature on Location: The Muse of Place*, showcasing a slate of writers, poets, artists, and musicians who recognize that place and space and their sense of belonging are intertwined with the fabric of their literature.

Some of Alabama's most celebrated writers and scholars will lead discussion sessions, readings and workshops. Writers and scholars participating in the event include Ace Atkins, Ted Dunagan, Ralph Eubanks, Carolyn Haines, Rheta Grimsley Johnson, Willie James King, Jim Noles, Linda Busby Parker, Wendy Reed, Michelle Richmond, Philip Shirley, Warren St. John, Jeanie Thompson, Carla Williams, Nancy Grisham Anderson, Daryl Brown, Anita Miller Garner, Robert Gray, John Hafner, Bert Hitchcock, Jennifer Horne, Douglas Mitchell, Don Noble, Jacqueline Allen Trimble, Ralph Voss and Sue Walker.

The symposium opens Thursday evening with "An Evening with Warren St. John." Feature writer for The New York Times and best-selling author of *Rammer Jammer Yellow Hammer: A Road Trip into the Heart of Fan Mania*, St. John released *Outcasts United: A*

Refugee Team, an American Town to rave reviews in 2009. Friday's events include readings by Rheta Grimsley Johnson, Ralph Eubanks, Philip Shirley, Jim Noles, Ted Dunagan and others; a picnic on the Old Courthouse Museum lawn; a community theatre production of *To Kill A Mockingbird*; and an afternoon performance by Alabama singer/songwriter Carla Williams.

The Friday luncheon features the presentation of the Harper Lee Award for Alabama's Distinguished Writer 2010 to writer Carolyn Haines and the Eugene Current-Garcia Award for Alabama's Distinguished Literary Scholar 2010 to Ralph Voss. The awards are made possible through a generous grant from George F. Landegger, Alabama River Pulp Company. Saturday morning's schedule includes readings by Anita Miller Garner, Michelle Richmond and Harper

Lee Award winner Carolyn Haines. The program will conclude with a brunch featuring Ace Atkins.

All events take place in Monroeville, Alabama. In 1997, the Alabama legislature designated Monroeville and Monroe County as the Literary Capital of Alabama in recognition of the region's remark-



Carolyn Haines

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Alabama Writer's Conference, *continued from page 7*

able literary heritage. Among the writers who at one time or another have called Monroeville and Monroe County home are Truman Capote, author of such classics as *In Cold Blood* and *Breakfast at Tiffany's*; Harper Lee, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *To Kill A Mockingbird*; Mark Childress, author of five novels including the bestselling *Crazy in Alabama*; and *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* editorial page editor Cynthia Tucker.

Admission to discussion sessions is free to all registered participants, but there will be a charge for the other events. Tickets are limited for the Thursday

“Evening with Warren St. John,” the Friday Awards luncheon, the live performance of *To Kill A Mockingbird*, and the Saturday brunch, so participants are encouraged to register by April 16.

The symposium is a project of the Alabama Center for Literary Arts and is sponsored by Alabama Southern Community College. Symposium supporters include George Landegger, Alabama River Pulp Company, Inc.; Alabama Humanities Foundation; Alabama State Council on the Arts; BankTrust; Alabama Power Foundation; Vanity Fair, Inc.; United Bank; and

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The Isle of Mull, 2005

Statistically, The Grandfather Mountain Highland Games

Most of us love Highland Games. It's interesting to think beyond the good times we have and learn what the statisticians have figured out about one of everyone's favorite events. Mr. Frank Vance, General Manager and Vice President of Operations at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games was kind enough to allow us to print this for you.

A survey carried out as a research project by students at N.C. State University revealed some interesting demographic information about the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.

Our four-day event draws 25,000 to 30,000 people. The typical Games attendee is 34 years of age, earns a median income of \$89,834, and is accompanied by family and friends who share an interest in Scottish heritage and culture. The survey indicates 93% of our respondents are from the Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic States. 44.6% stated it was their first time attending. 55.5% of our respondents are male,



44% female. Our attendees are well educated. 27.4% attended college, 24.81% graduated college, and 36.5% of those who graduated college attended graduate school. 20.85% are retired. 64.8% surveyed are of Scottish heritage and have joined one of 133 Scottish Clans or Societies represented at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.

During the past years, the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games was selected twice as one of the Top Ten Events in the Southeastern United States. The readers of the Blue Ridge Country Magazine picked

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games as "Best Moment for the Mountains" in 1997 and "Best Festival" in 1998 during their choice awards.

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games was also one of a few events nominated in the United States to represent North Carolina in a national Local Legacy exhibition at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

In the fall of 2004, National Geographic Traveler Magazine selected our event as one of the 20 "must see" events in North America. This recognition appeared in the April 2005 issue of National Geographic Traveler Magazine.

In 2007 GMHG was featured in the July 23rd issue of Sports Illustrated with a two page "Leading Off" photo by Associated Press photographer Chuck Burton. In 2010, GMHG was chosen by the American Bus Association as one of the top 100 events to attend in North America. Also, in 2010 the Games were proud to be featured by the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area in a series titled "Living Tradi-

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Alabama Writer's Conference,

continued from page 7

Radley's Fountain Grille. The symposium is produced in cooperation with Alabama Writers' Forum; Association of College English Teachers of Alabama; Auburn University Center for the Arts and Humanities; Alabama Center for the Book; Monroe County Heritage Museum; and the Monroeville/Monroe County Area Chamber of Commerce.

Visit the Alabama Writers Symposium website, <http://www.writerssymposium.org/>, for schedule updates and registration information. For more information or to request a registration form please call Donna Reed, (251) 575-8223 or email dreed@ascc.edu.

The Parade of Tartans at GMHG is always exciting!

GMHG, continued
from page 11

tions Moments.” The President and Congress founded this organization in 2003 to promote tourism in Appalachia.

Sincerely, Frank Vance, General Manager & Vice President of Operations Grandfather Mountain Highland Games <http://www.visitnc.com/journeys/multimedia/cultural-heritage/1/festivities-at-the-highland-games/#view>



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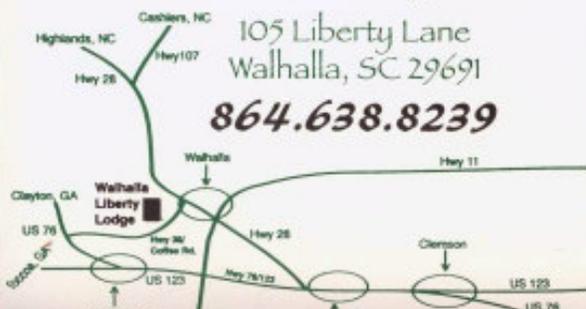
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The Whisky Column

Ray Pearson
San Diego, CA

A Visit to a British Pub in California

Maybe it was the fluttering Union Jack against a darkening sea-blue sky. Maybe it was that a pub called The Olde Ship was located on a street called Harbor. Or maybe it was just the idea of fish and chips with a single malt that made me drop anchor.

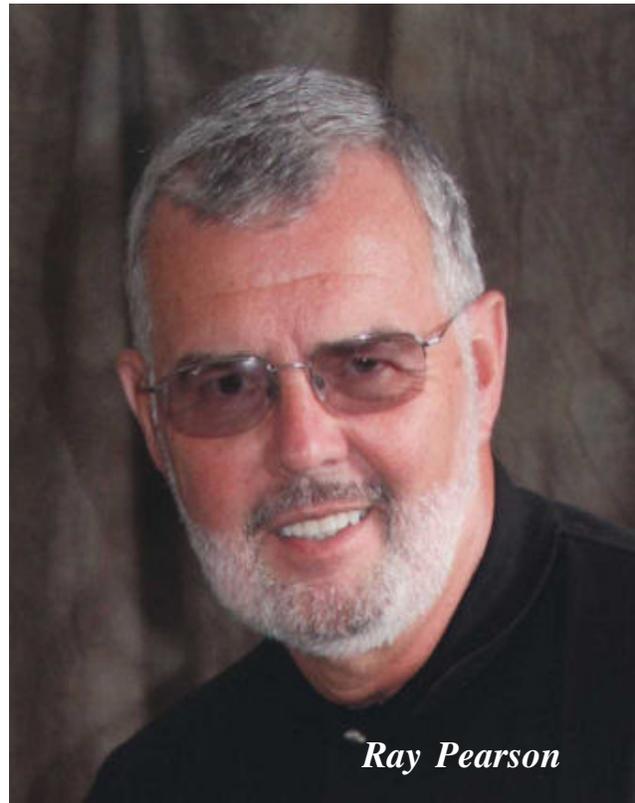
The Olde Ship's interior was one that beckoned "come in – you'll only be a stranger here but once" – and meant it. Dark woods, dart boards, copper bar top and cozy wing-back booths said it all – this is a true local's pub. But, the aroma of the place - a comfortable embrace of ale, curry, and roast beef. Delectable.

Annie Black was Johnnie on the spot to take my drink order and seemed pleased that I ordered a Lagavulin – a robust malt from Islay. More about that later. The idea of fish and chips started to blur as I navigated the bill of fare – two dozen entrees, each accompanied with a naval history tidbit – each like a dingy behind a sailboat. I learned that the Whitby Platter was a combination of Icelandic cod and prawns and that Whitby, one of England's most famous fishing villages, was where Captain James Cook embarked on his epic voyages of discovery to the New World. But, as good as the Whitby Platter sounded, I stuck to my original plan and ordered The Olde Ship's Fish and Chips. The dingy described the term "ship", various sails, and different kinds of masts.



Photographs by Ray Pearson

The Olde Ship



Ray Pearson

Annie was faster at tending to the table than I was at reading. She apologized for rearranging the water glass and bread basket, explaining "I wear trifocals and don't want to tip anything." As regular as the incoming tide, Annie delivered the food. "We" decided to go with a lighter single malt with the meal, and I chose The Glenrothes. Annie approved.

The food, no surprise, was first cabin, with the cod dipped in a light beer batter and deep fried to perfection. Traditional thick cut chips came with five dipping sauces: red cocktail, lemon dill, garlic mayon-

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The Whisky Column, continued from page 14



Photographs by Ray Pearson

naise, curried mayonnaise and salad cream. The Glenrothes snuggled up to the fish and made the taste even richer and fuller – at least for a single malt addict.

I had steered clear of choosing an appetizer, soup or salad (dozens to choose from), but was now wavering on dessert and maybe a leisurely third Scotch. After all, I wanted to stretch my stay a little longer to absorb more of the atmosphere. A live soccer game on the telly cinched the decision.

I ordered the Sticky toffee pudding, paired with

a 12 year old Bunnahabhain. Annie perked up.

“So, you like Islay whiskies”. “I do”. “I’m an Ileach” “Really? You were born on Islay?” “Aye, I was, and lived there for more than thirty years. And I’ve worked here for the whole 16 years we’ve been open.” “And I suppose you have a favorite Islay whisky ...” “Oh no, I don’t drink”.

In addition to more than a dozen single malts, covering most of the distilling regions of Scotland, the Olde Ship also has a great selection of harder to find British bottled beers. The menu disclaimer: “...limited amounts to ensure they remain as fresh as can be. As with the draughts, we invite you to ‘set sail and explore’ the different flavours and styles British beer has to offer.” Among the selection are Black Sheep Special Ale, St. Peter’s Cream Stout, Meantime London Porter, and two I will try because of the names alone – Wychwood Fiddler’s Elbow and Wychwood Organic Scarecrow.

On my next visit (I’m no longer a stranger), I plan on sitting at the bar and enjoying “pub grub”. Maggie and Fiona, two of the bartenders, both enjoy single malts, but have very different opinions about how to enjoy them, what to pair with them, and which one (gasp!) is “best”. There may be rough seas ahead!

Photographs by Ray Pearson



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- * Glenn Ford - President Martin Van Buren

Rosslyn Chapel discovery is causing a buzz

Melanie Reid



The stone pinnacle was hollowed-out by medieval masons to form a beehive



The ancient Rosslyn Chapel, beloved as the key to mysteries surrounding *The Da Vinci Code*, the Holy Grail and the Knights Templar, has thrown up another unfathomable puzzle: what lies behind the secret of the bees?

Builders renovating the 600-year-old chapel have discovered two beehives carved within the stonework high on the pinnacles of the roof. They are thought to be the first man-made stone hives ever found.

It appears the hives were carved into the roof when the chapel was built, with the entrance for the bees formed, appropriately, through the centre of an intricately carved stone flower. The hives were found when builders were dismantling and rebuilding the pinnacles for the first time in centuries.

Malcolm Mitchell, from Page Park, the architects on the £7 million restoration, said it appeared the chapel had been a haven for the insects as long ago as the 15th century.

“From the research that we have done, this is a unique situation in Europe. We haven’t found any precedent of this type of hive before. We were quite taken aback. It’s very unusual.

“In Scotland, hives are so often made of baskets which can be lifted and moved around. It was particularly a surprise because the hives themselves are the ideal size for bees to inhabit — hollowed out to the size of a gas cylinder — but they were constructed purely as a haven for the bees. They weren’t built to harvest honey,” he added.

“It was just out of kindness and respect to the sacredness of these insects. Reverence to bees insects goes back historically to Egyptian times.”

Although human beings have collected honey from wild bee colonies since time immemorial, at some point they began to domesticate wild bees in artificial hives, made from hollow logs, pottery, or woven straw baskets. The Egyptians kept bees in cylindrical hives, and pictures in temples show workers blowing smoke into the hives, and removing honeycombs. Sealed pots

Continued on page 19

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Disaster at MacRae Meadows, *continued from page 1*

Concert in Boone and the Piping Concert in Boone. Although such cancellations are unfortunate, they were deemed essential to maintain the quality of the Games on the mountain without a further increase in ticket prices.

With this in mind, the GMHG Board is asking for your help in off-setting this unexpected expense. Any amount that you can donate at this time would be

greatly appreciated and will go directly toward the storm damage clean-up of our beloved MacRae Meadows. Please consider a donation to our Storm Clean-Up Fund for 2010 so that we can return MacRae Meadows to its previous beauty.

You may also mail checks marked "Tree damage" to GMHG, Frank Vance, PO Box 28646, Linville, NC28646 - You may also visit:

<http://www.gmhg.org/Tree%20damage%20on%20MacRae%20Meadows.htm>

Bees at Rosslyn Chapel, *continued from page 16*

of honey were found in Tutankhamun's tomb.

Bronze Age hives made of straw and unbaked clay have been dug up near Jerusalem. They were found in orderly rows, three high, each one accommodating around 100 hives. The Greeks also developed bee-keeping as an art, and celebrated it on gold rings and ornaments.

Honeycombs were found abandoned inside the hive in the north pinnacle, but, equally strangely, the hive on the south pinnacle did not have an entry hole for bees and therefore had not been occupied.

Mr Mitchell said: "It's just another of Rosslyn's mysteries. The north pinnacle was full of honeycombs which had been abandoned for some considerable years. The honey had all dried up."

The experts believe the interior of the hives were lined with a coating to prevent the wild bees from gnawing away at the stonework.

Allan Gilmour, from Hunter & Clark stonemasons, the main contractors on the chapel, said: "I've never heard of man-made stone beehives. What I have seen is bees creating hives in stone. When we restored the Irvine Town House we found that bees had burrowed into the sandstone and created honeycombs. They had weakened the stone.

"Maybe at Rosslyn the monks had the same problem in the past and created the hive as a sanctuary."

There is anecdotal evidence that visitors to the chapel, which dates back to 1446, used to be disturbed by bees. Mr Mitchell said some of the staff at the Rosslyn Trust were aware some years ago that

there had been bees going into the cavity. The hives have now been reinstated within the rebuilt pinnacles on the roof of the chapel.

Rosslyn Chapel was built on the orders of William St Clair, Prince of Orkney. Begun in 1446, work ceased in 1484 when William died, so that the building was then in the form it remains in today.

Members of the Scottish Beekeepers' Association said yesterday they had not heard of beehives created from stone. Mrs Una Robertson, the organisation's historian,

said: "I'm not an architect, but it's the sort of thing that might have come my way. Bees do go into roof spaces and set up home, and can stay there a long time, but it's unusual to want to attract bees into a building.

"Traditionally, bees were kept in a skep — made out of straw or dried grass. Skeps have been around for centuries. Wooden hives only came in since the 17th century. Bees have been kept in all sorts of containers, but I have never heard of stone."



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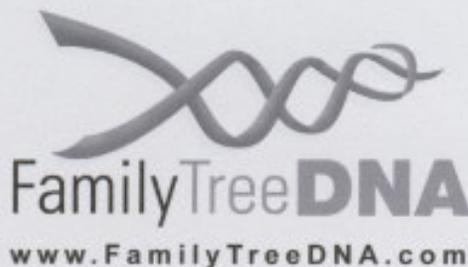
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According to a study of children in 1987, people with memory disorders have low levels of acetylcholine, which certain foods - such as sardines - can mitigate.

Attire for the Highland gentleman's wedding...

Agent's highland wedding outfit typically consists of the following - For a day-time wedding, a kilt, that is usually made from eight yards of tartan wool, is normally worn with a white turn-down collar shirt and tie. The tie may be silver but should not be tartan. The jacket and matching waistcoat should be tweed with antler buttons and made in the Argyll, Crail, Braemar or similar style. Black or brown leather accessories are a sporran and brogues and can include a kilt belt, worn instead of the waistcoat but not with it. Kilt hose with garter flashes can be any plain colours, but white hose should be avoided, and they should not clash with the colours in the kilt and jacket. You will also need kilt pin.

For a day-time wedding with a more formal look, where Anglo-Saxons would wear morning dress, the kilt can be worn with a black Argyll or similar style jacket with silver buttons and matching five-button waistcoat or a black leather kilt belt with silver buckle plate. As with day wear, a waistcoat and kilt belt should not be worn together. Other accessories are black brogues, sporran with fur front or silver cantle, coloured but not white, kilt hose and garter flashes that do not clash with the colours in the kilt or jacket. A plain white day-wear shirt with a turn-down collar is best. The tie may be silver but should not be tartan. You will also need a kilt pin and cuff links.

For an evening wedding or wedding reception, where Anglo-Saxons would wear a dinner suit (tuxedo), the kilt may be worn with a Prince Charlie jacket, which is usually black with silver buttons, and three button waistcoat to match the jacket or the tartan of the kilt. Alternatively, one of the highland doublets such as the Regulation, Kenmore, Sheriffmuir or Montrose

may be worn. The last three with a lace jabot or highland cravat. Accessories are a full dress sporran with fur front and silver cantle, kilt pin and cuff links, kilt hose and garter flashes to harmonise with the colours in the kilt and jacket, or tartan or diced hose that match the kilt and black brogues or buckle brogues. The white evening shirt (tuxedo shirt) worn with a black bow tie can have a wing-collar or turn-down collar. Following day-time weddings, it is normal for kilted grooms and guests to go on to evening receptions in the highland day wear or morning dress that they wore for the wedding itself.



Although rarely worn in Scotland any more, formal evening dress could include a fly plaid or belted half-plaid, which passes under the epaulette on the left shoulder and is secured to the jacket or doublet by a large plaid brooch. Dirks are rarely worn and are inappropriate for a church wedding, where weapons should not be carried. However, a sgian dubh or a safety one without a blade, is often worn in the top of the hose. Although this is more a utility knife than a real weapon, make sure it is legal in the country or state where you will be married!

A couple of things to avoid are kilts that are too low and hose that are too high. If they meet, you've got it wrong!

The top of the kilt should be at or slightly above your belly button, and the bottom at or slightly above the middle of your knees. Hose should be a couple of inches below where your knee bends. Apart from laws about carrying of knives, there are no rules about Scottish highland dress but there are traditions and conventions. These should not dictate what you wear or prevent you from being creative and a wee bit different but knowing the form should help you look your best on your wedding day.

Beat wishes, Iain (Rev Dr Iain MacRobert), South Queensferry, Scotland.

Scotland's Cluniac Heritage Conference set for May 15 in Paisley

A conference to mark the 1100th anniversary of the founding of the monastic Order of Cluny in Burgundy, France is set for Saturday, 15th May 2010 at the Paisley Town Hall in Scotland. The event is from 9:45 AM until 4:45 PM with registration opening at 9:15 AM.

Leading historians and archaeologists will present papers on various aspects of monastic life around the abbeys of Paisley and Crossraguel and consider French influences in Scotland from the 12th to the 16th centuries.

Presenters include Dr. Anthony Freeman from the Lewes Priory Trust who will present his paper on The Federation of Cluniac Sites, Cluny Abbey and the Order in Britain; Dr. Matthew Hammond from Edinburgh University who will present The first 100 years of Paisley Abbey's patrons; Adrian Cox

from Historic Scotland will present Archaeological finds at Crossraguel Abbey; Prof. Stephen Driscoll & Bob Will from Glasgow University will present Paisley Abbey: recent archaeological excavations; Prof. Richard Fawcett from St. Andrews University will present Architecture of Paisley and Crossraguel Abbeys; Peter Yeoman from Historic Scotland will present Pilgrimage, especially Paisley to Whithorn and Prof. Charles McKean from Dundee University will present Scotland as a French Colony in the 16th century.

Conference tickets are 25 pounds. Contact James Brown, 7 Southpark Road, Ayr, KA7 2TL, Scotland, United Kingdom. You may email baltersan.castle@btinternet.com. Checks should be made to: Cluny 2010 Scotland.



MacDuffee Clan Society of America, Inc. Of Clan MacFie

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James Armour married Mary Smith...and it just gets more confusing

While visiting the Burns Club of Atlanta recently to give their program, one of the members gave me a sheet of paper with the genealogy of Jean Armour - wife of Scotland's Bard Robert Burns.

There might be some readers who have the name "Armour" in their family pedigree charts. I'll give you what is known about the family, which isn't really very much.

James Armour married Mary Smith (no dates or places are given on the charts but since their daughter, Jean married Robert Burns, we can deduce the approximate dates and even places).

We know that Robert Burns lived from 1759-1796. We know that Robert Burns and Jean Armour were married in 1788 - after she had borne him four children. We know that two of their children were twins, Robert and Jean. We know that only three of the children lived to become adults.

James Armour and Mary Smith had: John, Jean (who married Robert Burns), James, Robert who died young, Adam, Helen who married JOHN BROWN, Mary, another Robert who died young, another Mary (Did the first one die young?), Janet and yet another Robert.

The Helen who married John Brown had a son, Hugh Brown, who produced: Anne, Helen who married ?? Stevenson, another Jean, another John and Margaret - all named Brown.

Helen, who married the Stevenson had Allan Brown Stevenson who had Yvonne Helen Stevenson and Aileen Penny Stevenson.

So, if you have the names Smith, Brown or Stevenson or Burns in your family tree, you might be able to trace them back to the wife of Robert Burns...or



even to the poet himself.

As a descendant of John MacDonald who married Mary Allen, I do know the struggle you will have!

Jean Armour Burns' biography from Wikipedia.

Born in Mauchline, Ayrshire in 1765, Jean Armour was second oldest of the eleven children of stonemason James Armour (died 1798) and Mary Smith Armour. She met Robert Burns on a drying green in Mauchline around 1784 when she chased his dog away from her laundry. According to Armour's testimony in 1827, she met Burns again at a local dance and they subsequently "fell acquainted".

By the time Burns's first illegitimate child, Elizabeth Paton Burns (1785 - 1817) was born to Elizabeth Paton (died 1817) on 22 May 1785, he and Jean Armour were in a relationship and by the end of the year she was pregnant with his child. Her announcement, in March 1786, that she was expecting Robert Burns's baby caused her father to faint. The certificate of an informal marriage agreement between Burns and Armour was destroyed by James Armour and he removed his daughter to Paisley to prevent local scandal. However word had spread and the Mauchline Kirk recalled her on 10 June 1786, to admit that she was unmarried and pregnant and to confirm the name of the baby's father. Burns was called on 25 June to also admit his part in the affair.

His letters from this period indicate that he in-

Continued on page 25



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Jean Armour, *continued from page 23*

tended to marry Jean Armour as soon as they realised she was pregnant, but had been discouraged by her reluctance to disobey her father's disapproval of the union. Additionally, at this point, Burns was romantically involved with

'Highland' Mary Campbell (1763 - 1786), who was also allegedly pregnant by him, and was considering a move to Jamaica. The emigration fell through and Mary died in October 1786 before she could give birth. Believing he had been abandoned by Jean Armour, he set about having himself declared single again and transferred his property to his brother Gilbert Burns (1760 - 1827) in anticipation of a move. Believing that he was about to abscond, James Armour issued a warrant against him and Burns effectively went into hiding that summer, when coincidentally his first volume of poetry, commonly called the "Kilmarnock Edition" was published.

Jean remained with her parents in the village of Mauchline, and Robert in the farm at Mossgiel. The couple continued to live apart even after the birth of their twins Robert (1786 - 1857) and Jean on 3 September 1786 and following the success of The Kilmarnock Edition, Burns moved temporarily to Edinburgh. He returned intermittently to Mauchline, during which time Jean fell

pregnant to him again. When Burns returned permanently on 23 February 1788 he found Jean was destitute and had been expelled from the family home. They reconciled their relationship, Burns found her a place to stay. On 3 March she went

into labour and delivered a second set of twins, two girls, one of whom died on 10 March, the other on 22 March.

In the light of Burns's new-found celebrity as a poet, James Armour relented and allowed his daughter to be married to him. Although their marriage was registered on 5 August 1788 in Mauchline, the parish records describe them as having been "irregularly married some years ago". She and Burns moved to Ellisland Farm where they stayed until 1791 when they moved to Dumfries, where both would live for the rest of their lives.

Jean Armour and Robert Burns had nine children together

(he had another four by other women), the last of which was born on the day of his funeral in July 1796.

Her widowhood and the straitened circumstances she found herself in after Burns's death attracted national attention and a charitable fund was collected for her and the children. She survived her husband by 38 years, and lived to see his name become celebrated throughout the world. Twenty years after his death, his fame had reached such a point that his remains were removed from their modest grave in St Michael's Kirkyard, Dumfries, and placed in a specially commissioned mausoleum. Here, Jean Armour was buried when she died in 1834. Statues of Jean were erected in Mauchline in 2002, and in Dumfries, opposite St Michael's Kirk, in 2004.



You're invited to the CBS AGM at Greenville, SC Highland Games

Clan Blair Society will be having their AGM May 29th, 2010 in Greenville, SC in conjunction with the Greenville Highland Games. We will have a big tent with lots of Blair genealogy available to browse through. All are invited, you don't need to be a member to meet your fellow Blair "cousins". We will have a big Banquet that night with live music from the Celtic band The Keeleys.

Banquet reservations need to be made ASAP. For more info go to the website: www.clanblair.org, www.greenvillegames.org or cissiblair@bellsouth.net



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Chuck and Marcy LaSalle really, really need our prayers...A letter from Marcy..

I confess — I am a person who reads the prayer requests and I quietly add names to my personal prayer list but I seldom post on the prayer thread. My spiritual feelings have always been between me and my God as that is just the way I am. Please know that each and every one of you has been on my list for years and will continue to be on my prayer list in the future.

I am now asking for prayers for Chuck. As many of you know, Chuck has been a double amputee since October of 1997. He has diabetes and the complications of diabetes forced him to have his left leg amputated above the knee and his right leg amputated below the knee. He was able to wear prosthetics and even learned to walk again. However, the past few years he has chosen not to wear his prosthetics as his skin is so tender and blisters form when he tries to walk.

Monday, April 5th was a fairly routine day in that he had a surgical procedure done at a local hospital. We decided to have lunch at the hospital cafeteria after his release. The sun was shining, the sky was blue, robins were flitting back and forth and spring was definitely in the air. Unfortunately a different kind of spring was just ahead of us!

As we left the cafeteria and were making our way to the car, we were making plans for the rest of the week. We were within 100' of our car when suddenly a small dip appeared in the pavement and caught the front wheels of Chuck's wheelchair! Neither one of us saw the bump or we would have avoided it. Unfortunately Chuck was catapulted forward onto the

pavement with such force that he broke the femur of his left leg.

Suddenly several people were on the scene to help Chuck! Nursing students, doctors, nurses, and security guards were everywhere! I overheard a security guard say that if he had fallen inside the blue line, the gurney would have been sent for him. BUT, because he fell outside the blue line, we had to wait

for an ambulance to transport him approximately 1000' or less to the Emergency Room! (NOTE: I think the "imaginary" blue line is the demarcation between "the billable area" and "the non-billable area!")

We spent more than six hours in the Emergency Room waiting for x-rays and a room assignment. On Tuesday, a steel rod was inserted in Chuck's left leg. He was kept in recovery for an extended period of

time as his blood pressure remained too low. Chuck is now in the Neuro-Trauma ICU area of the hospital, has a private room, multiple IVs and monitors hooked up to him and someone interrupting him every 2 hours! (People do not go to the hospital to SLEEP!) He is being monitored due to an irregular heartbeat or atrial fibrillation (AF).

The morphine and Vicodin are helping the physical pain. The cute, young nurses are very attentive and seem to enjoy taking care of Chuck as he is not a whiner and a complainer. Would you please help to speed his recovery by adding him to your prayer list? We have no idea how long this journey will last and how long he will be in the hospital. We do not know if he will be in rehab at the hospital or at another loca-



Continued on page 29

Grandfather Mountain Games to feature “The Appalachian Mountains” this year...

This year, the theme of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games will be The Appalachian Mountains.

Grandfather Mountain General Manager, Frank Vance, says, “We look forward to this year’s feature article in the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games

Chuck and Marcy, *continued from page 28*

tion. We can only hope and pray that he will achieve full recovery and will be as independent as he was before he fell.

I will be checking Chuck’s email daily. If you would like to send e-cards to him, I will print them off each day and take them to him. His email address is: Glengarry33@aol.com If you would like to send him a card, the address is: Charles LaSalle, Room S-4061, Genesys Regional Memorial Center, One Genesys Parkway, Grand Blanc, Michigan 48439.

Chuck and Marcy LaSalle have been members of Clan Donald USA forever and both have held national offices of importance. They have been stalwarts of the Scottish community in and around Detroit, Michigan...and dear friends for many, many years.

Chuck and Marcy LaSalle may be reached at home at: 3241 Luce Road, Flushing, MI 48433. Marcy’s cell is: 810-516-2320. Home Phone is: 810-732-7002.

program, detailing what a unique place Appalachia is. As a “teaser”, I would like to give you a few details of how unique and special this area is:

1. There are more species of trees in one acre of land in Appalachia than in all of Europe.
2. There are two species of salamanders on Grandfather Mountain that are found nowhere else in the world.
3. The Appalachian Mountains are larger than Great Britain.
4. 42 Indian tribes have inhabited the Blue Ridge Mountains.
5. The Appalachian Mountains are considered among the oldest mountains in the world.

One of our special authors, Julie Taylor Ebel, has rewritten the *Jack Tales & Mountain Yarns, as told by Orville Hicks*.

Other authors attending the Games will be Jennifer Taylor and Carl Peterson.

Honored Guest this year is the Scottish Government Counsellor for North America, Robin Naysmith.

Distinguished Guests are: John Alexander MacArthur of that Ilk (Chief of Clan MacArthur); Louisa MacKintosh Cross (Representing her brother, Chief of Clan MacKintosh); Tommy Burleson a local basketball star and celebrity and Alexander Burnett (Representing his father, Chief of Clan Burnett).

Mr. Vance said, regarding the tree disaster (see page 1) on MacRae Meadow, “If everybody who loves the Grandfather Mountain Games would just send a few dollars, we’d have enough to pay for the clean-up.”

“The clean-up work is very dangerous as there are many “widowmaker” trees. Widowmakers are tree tops that were blown over but which did not fall. We’ve hired professionals to cut those hanging limbs and treetops out before they can fall on someone,” he continued.

When asked if he had any idea how much the limb and downed tree removal would cost, Mr. Vance said, “It’s surely not in our non-profit budget, but we’ll need a minimum of \$20,000 to \$30,000. We need for lots of our friends to send a few dollars each.”

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