

THE HOMETOWN PUBLICATION FOR THE WORLDWIDE SCOTTISH COMMUNITY

Vol. 10 No. 5 *Beth's Newfangled Family Tree* Section B November 2016

Clan Davidson mourns Mary



David Chagnon writes, "It is with great sorrow that I have to be the messenger of the following news sent to me by Clan Davidson Chief Grant."

He writes, "I am sending this to all Davidson Clansmen of North America. Our beloved Mary

Continued on page 27



Expert: Scotland missing the deadline

Nicola Sturgeon will miss a spring deadline to hold an independence referendum in time to keep Scotland in the European Union, an expert has warned.

The SNP would have to call, fight and win a vote by early 2017 to beat Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit timetable, says veteran Brussels watcher Kirsty Hughes.

However, the first minister and her party have run out of time to prepare the political and parliamentary ground for an early referendum in the coming year as they weigh up what Ms Hughes describes as rapidly narrowing options.

Polls show support for independence remains short of the clear majority analysts claim Ms Stur-

Continued on page 7





Lyon(s) Families Association

The Lyon(s) Families Association of America

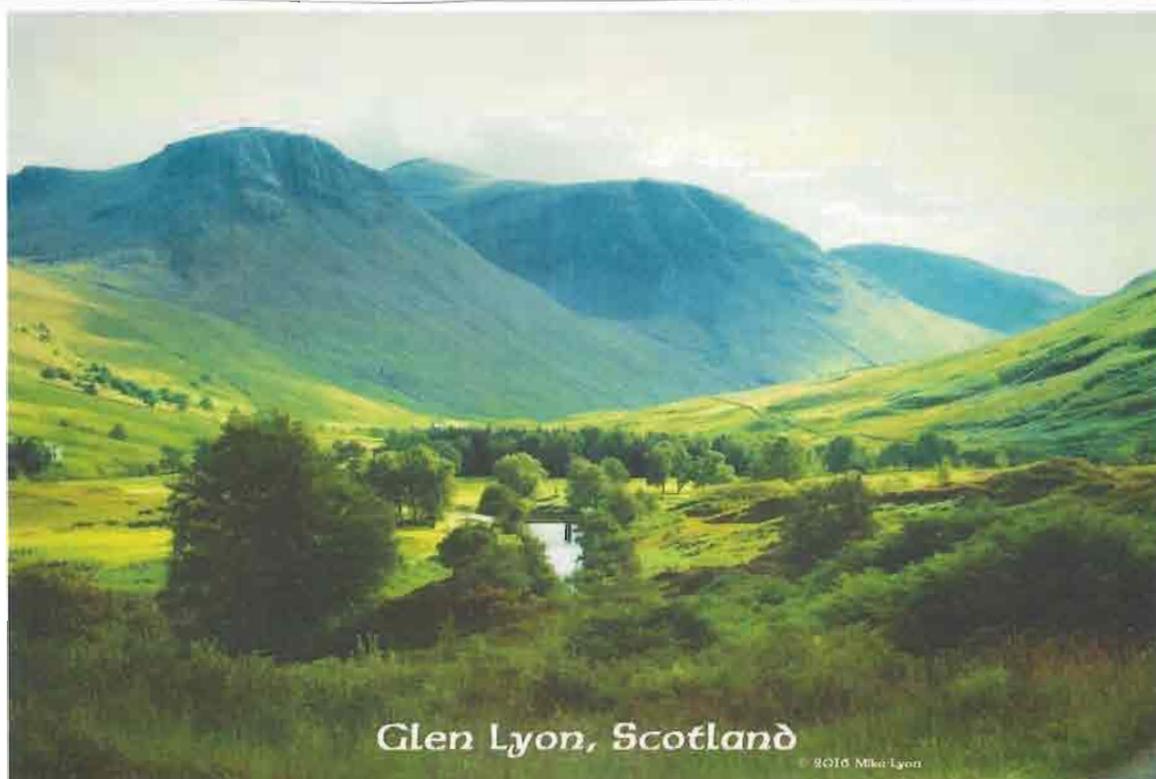
The Lyon(s) Families Association of America is a non-profit organization devoted to research and compilation of the records of Lyon and Lyons families.

Visit our new web page: <http://www.lyon-lyons-genealogy.org/>

How would you like to have a digital file of the photograph of Scotland's Glen Lyon seen below?

President of the Lyon(s) Families Association of America, Mike Lyon, writes: "You may remember my trip to Scotland and visit to Glen Lyon last year. Here is a photo I took of the Glen. The actual picture is high resolution (14 megapixel). I've got a 20x30 inch enlargement on my office wall and it looks great.

I'll be happy to make this digital file available to any of you for a \$10 contribution to the Lyon(s) Family Association of America. Just send a check with a note that includes your email address. Send it to 11340 Ethan Court, Swan Point, MD 20645. Questions? Email: <lyonsfam@comcast.net>



The Paisley Clan Marries The

Buchanan Clan



The thrill of a single bagpipe blaring a Scottish wedding song, *Highland Cathedral*, stirs the silence of the redwood grove giving flight to scores of birds and delighting dozens of attending guests.

August 28, 2016, around 2PM, Occidental, California in a redwood grove there, Paisley Family Society's Michelle Paisley and Buchanan Clan's Elie Cohen are being married.

Eleven Years ago, 2005, Michelle fell in love with Scotland attending a Paisley Family Society reunion there with her father.

The following year, 2006, Michelle returned to Scotland taking an advanced English literature course at University of St.Andrews. It was there she met Elie and fell in love with him. The two have been virtually inseparable since; notwithstanding the first year finishing high schools in their separate home towns, Michelle in San Rafael, California and Elie in Scranton, Pennsylvania. They then attended the University of Pittsburgh together after which the McGeorge School of Law.

With thanks to the *Paisley Family Society, USA Branch Newsletter*. To contact the Paisley Family Society, email mbrown2205@aol.com

Congratulations

to Robert Wilbanks!

Robert has been appointed Chief Genealogist and Historian of the Caledonian Society of Arizona. Robert has been an avid genealogist and researcher of the Paslay and Milam families since he was a teenager.

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Christian Carswell named men's track and field Athlete of the Games at GMHG

Representing the Clan Ramsay Association of North America, Christian Carswell, 22, of Morganton, North Carolina, was named Athlete of the Games in men's track and field, outracing, and outjumping his competition at the 61st annual Grandfather Mountain Highland Games last July 10, 2016.

Carswell, a Western Carolina University graduate, is no stranger to winning, having played a significant role in WCU's winning sweep of the 2016 Southern Conference Outdoor Track & Field Championship. There, Carswell aced the decathlon with 6,340 points.

At MacRae Meadows, he finished first in the 100 Yard Dash, 220 Yard Dash, Triple Jump, Long Jump and High Jump attributing his success to the guidance of his mentor, WCU assistant coach and recruiting coordinator Matt Harlfinger.

At the end of the day of competition Christian donated his trophies to the Clan Ramsay Association.



Delighted and proud Clan Ramsay Association of North America members with Christian Carswell and his winner's hardware at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, 2016.



CLAN BUCHANAN SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL, INC.

If you have the name "Buchanan" in your family or any of the allied family/sept names below, you are invited to join your cousins and Buchanan kin. Just send an email for a membership form and/or information to

<http://www.theclanbuchanan.com/html/contact.html>



- | | | |
|------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Bohanan | Gilbert | Macgilbert |
| Buchanan | Gilbertson | Macgreusich |
| Colman | Harper | Macgubbin |
| Cormack | Harperson | Macinally |
| Cousland | Leavy | Macindeo(r) |
| Dewar | Lennie | Mackibb |
| Donleavy | Lenny | Mackibbon |
| Dove, Dow | Macaldonich | Mackinlay |
| Gibb(s)(y) | Macalman | Mackinley |
| Gibbon | Macandeior | Macmaster |
| Gibson | Macaslan | Macmaurice |
| | Macaslin | Macmorris |
| | Macauselan | Macmurchie |
| | Macauslan(in) | Macmurphy |
| | Macausland | Macnecur |
| | Macauslane | Macnuir |
| | Macalman | Macquat |
| | Macalmon(t) | Macquattie |
| | Macammond | Macquattiey |
| | Macasland | Macquyer |
| | Macchruter | MacQuinten |
| | Maccolman | Macwattie |
| | Maccolwan | Macwhirter |
| | Maccormac(k) | Macwhorter |
| | Maccommon | Masters |
| | Maccoubrey | Masterson |
| | Maccubbin | Morrice |
| | Maccubbing | Morris |
| | Maccubin | Morrison |
| | Macdonleavy | (of Perthshire only) |
| | Macgeorge | Murchie |
| | Macgibbon | Murchison |
| | | Richardson |



- Risk
- Rusk(ie)
- Ruskin
- Spittal
- Spittle
- Walter
- Walters
- Wason
- Sasson
- Waters
- Watson
- Watt
- Watters
- Weir
- Wuill
- Wool
- Wulp

The CBSI was formed in 1970 as the Clan Buchanan Society in America. It was founded at the Grandfather Mountain Games in North Carolina. The name was later changed to the Clan Buchanan Society International Inc., to reflect our society's expanded purpose and membership.



You're welcome to email the president
Eric Bullard, goatherd@gmail.com

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If you would like to advertise your business or activity,
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Phenomenal 2 letter word

Read until the end ...

This two-letter word in English has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that word is 'UP'. It is listed in the dictionary as an [adv], [prep], [adj], [n] or [v].

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP?

At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP, and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report? We call UP our friends, brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and fix UP the old car.

At other times, this little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses.

To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed UP is special.

And this UP is confusing: A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP.

We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night. We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP!

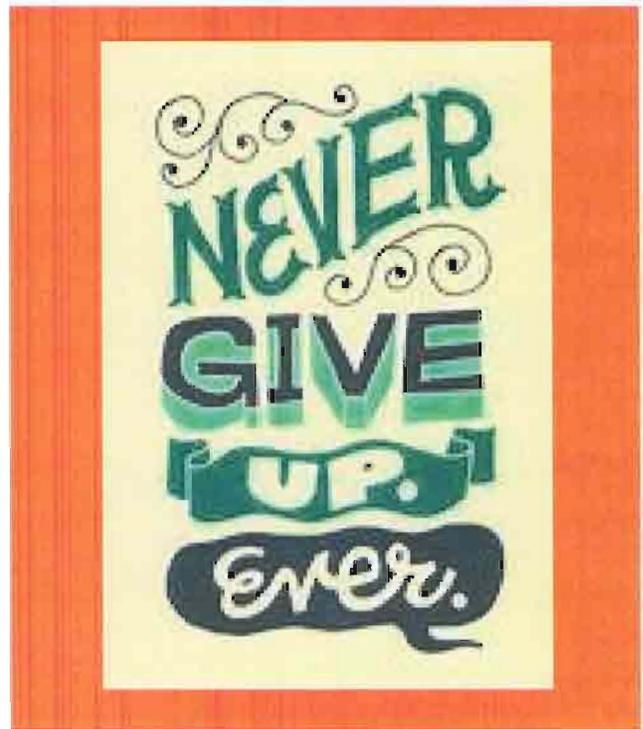
To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look UP the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4 of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions.

If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out, we say it is clearing UP. When it rains, it soaks UP the earth. When it does not rain for awhile, things dry UP. One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now... my time is UP!

I'll shut UP now.

With thanks to my old and dear friend, Mairi Gray!



Missing deadline, continued from page 1

geon would want to see before calling an historic second vote.

But Ms Hughes - an authority on EU politics formerly of Chatham House - argues that there is a simple schedule Scotland would have to meet if it wants to seamlessly stay in the bloc.

Writing for Edinburgh University's *Europa Institute*, she said: "The timescale now looks very tight for those who would like a second independence referendum before the UK leaves the EU, so that Scotland can simply stay in when UK leaves.

"If Scotland would need 18 months to two years to disentangle from UK if there was a Yes vote then, unless a second referendum is held in the first half of 2017, it is unavoidable that Scotland will leave the EU when the UK does."

She added: "A referendum by the end of 2018, would mean Scotland could, as part of its divorce talks with the UK, hold parallel membership talks with the EU, and attempt to limit the damage so that its laws did remain consistent with the EU, allowing fast-track negotiations and re-entry.

"But it would not be anything like as smooth or speedy as could be achieved if there was a very rapid referendum in early 2017, which currently looks unlikely."



Pictured left to right: Carson Smith, Lee Cloe, Tom Milton, Stephen Andrews, Lou Shepherd and Lynn Allyn Young, Recipient of the first (1989) Thomas H. (Tommy) Thompson Award for Excellence

Secretary Emeritus of the Scottish Society of Indianapolis, **Maj. Lee E. Cloe, D. Ed., USAF (Ret.)** passed away in his sleep on the weekend of Saturday, September 24, 2016.

Lee E. Cloe, a Noblesville native, Charter Member of the Scottish Society Indianapolis and a lifelong member of the Lions Club, was a retired US Air Force pilot, training officer and commander, who flew supply and medical evacuation planes in Vietnam, served in Saudi Arabia during the first Persian Gulf War, and who retired with the rank of Major.

In addition to his military service, Lee Cloe held a doctorate in education, he served as an administrator for various universities and state agencies, and he was a frequently requested speaker on a number of historical subjects and personalities, which he often presented in first person, in costumes ranging from a Roman legionnaire to an Arab sheikh.

Dr. Cloe directed the first Society election at the First Annual Founders Day Dinner on Wednesday, November 13, 1985, and went on to serve as Trustee (1989-90), Secretary (1992-98 and 2000-02), Vice

President (1991-92), and President (1993), he was the third recipient of the Thomas H. (Tommy) Thompson Award (1991), and named Secretary Emeritus.

According to Dr. Cloe, "There is no known connection of the CLOW/CLOE names in Perthshire with any clans that I have been able to find, thus, we wear the Strathearn tartan, to show the connection with the land of Scotland," and Dr. Cloe was an enthusiastic proponent for the wearing of District Tartans.

His body has been given the IU Medical school but his widow may arrange a celebration of life service in the future.

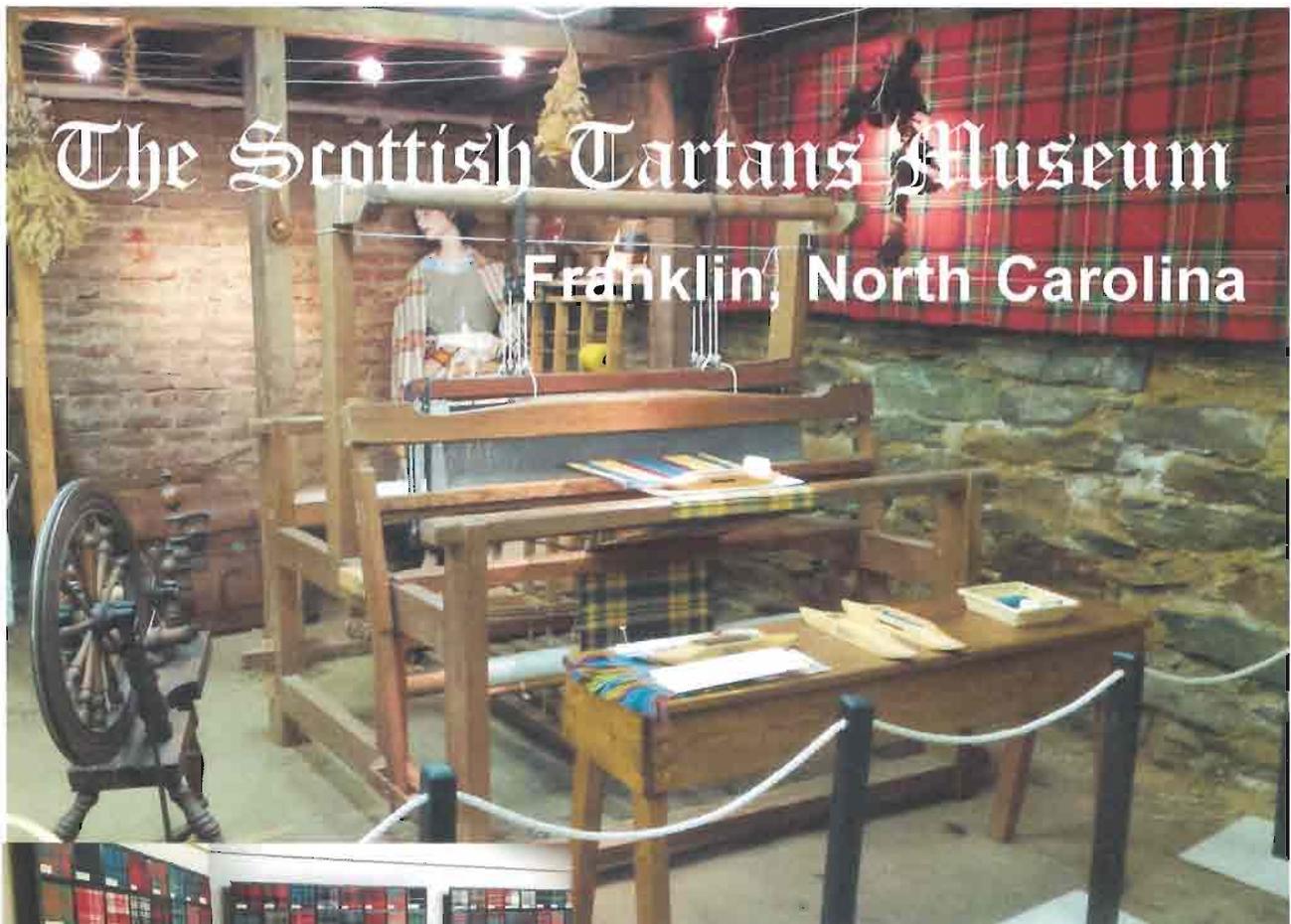
Words of sympathy should be sent to: Mrs. Lee E. (Marcia) Cloe, 4720 Royal Oak Dr., Carmel, IN 46033-3324

Richard "Dick" Erwin Barrett passed away peacefully on Friday, July 22, 2016 at 90 years of age, with his wife Lena M. Cary Barrett by his side. Richard and Lena were married nearly 70 years ago. He was the first born child to Ervin "Irving" Lucious Barrett and Mary Ann Clements.

Richard's surname origin comes from Great Britain. His paternal grandfather, William Parrott, born in Leighton Buzzard, England was the first to settle in North America. In 1891 William lived in Lake Ontario, Canada - and at this time, the family surname was converted from Parrott to Barrett.

During Richard's early years he attended a two room schoolhouse in Hopkinton, New York. He was employed at Alcoa in Massena, New York and later worked in the manufacturing industry and on dairy farms. He attended the School of the Blind in Buffalo, New York and worked for the Association for the blind in Albany, New York for seventeen years.

In recent years, he jointly owned and managed Lena's Kitchen with his wife for twenty-seven years. During his entire life, he and his family were determined not to let his blindness hinder his life. He was a Met's baseball fan and kept track of a wide variety of local and national professional sports statistics.



The Scottish Tartans Museum & Heritage Center is located in downtown Franklin, North Carolina.

This tartans museum is a non profit organization operated by a Board of Directors and the only tartan museum in the United States.

Our museum is located downstairs which shows the evolution of the kilt and the history of tartan.

Our gift shop, which supports the operation of our museum, is located upstairs and our volunteers are trained to look up surnames and provide customers with a bit of history and what tartan their family should wear.

We offer our gift shop online and brick and mortar. Here you can order custom made kilts, ladies kilted skirts, sashes, scarves, neckties, fabric by the swatch or by the yard, kilt hose and all quality accessories to accent your highland wear.

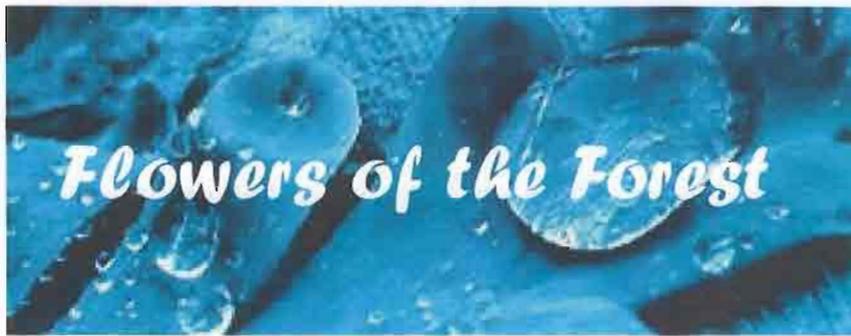
Admission is \$2.00 per adult and \$1.00 for Children 6-12.

We are open Monday through Saturday 10-5 pm (Winter hours are 11 AM until 4 PM) It is always a good idea to call first if you are planning a trip to our quaint wee mountain town because we might have snow and ice.

Visit our website and learn some history as well

www.scottishtartans.org





Mrs. Mary Kate Miller age 63 of Smyrna, passed away Tuesday, July 26, 2016. Funeral services were held 1 PM Thursday, July 28, 2016 at Carmichael Funeral Home Chapel in Smyrna, Georgia, with Rev. Scotty Davis officiating. Interment was in Kennesaw Memorial Park in Marietta, Georgia.

Mrs. Miller was a longtime resident of Smyrna. She taught in Paulding County before retiring from Cobb County Schools after 27 years as a teacher at Belmont Hills Elementary School. She was a member of Alpha Delta Kappa teaching sorority. She was an Honorary Lifetime Member of Clan Bell North America and was also a member of Clan Blackstock.

She received a Certificate of Merit from the Red Cross of America, the highest award they bestow, issued by President Ronald Reagan; she was also a member of the Scottish Tartan Museum in Franklin, North Carolina.

Surviving are her husband Ira Wayne Miller of Smyrna, three sisters-Ida (Harold) Simmons of Oakwood, Ada (Junior) Truett of Gainesville, Sue Seitz (Jacob) Armour of Alto. Surviving also are numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

Mary and her husband Wayne had been sponsors for The Stone Mountain Highland Games for the past 20 years.

For many years they were conveners for Clan Bell at many games including Grandfather Mountain and Stone Mountain.

Mary was a devoted member of The Scottish Tartans Museum and Heritage Center for many years. She proudly told everyone she knew that she LOVED The Scottish Tartans Museum.

Mary made her last visit to the Scottish Tartans Museum during the Scottish festival. It had been her greatest desire to make the trip to Franklin and spend the day doing what she liked best, helping out in the museum.

Before her illness she would come spend the day, cleaning the museum, making it smell good, as well as waiting on customers.

Her last visit found her greeting customers and selling raffle tickets. She has always been one of our most loyal and devoted supporters. But she was more than that, she was a kind, compassionate friend that always had a compliment for everyone and a genuine hug. Mary made friends wherever she went. She wore her tartan proudly and represented her clans as well as the museum whenever she could.

Miss Mary fought her battle for two years with cancer but her days of pain and suffering are no more.

We love you Mary and we will never forget you.

Jim, Kathie, Daniel, and the Volunteers of The Scottish Tartans

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For more information on legacy giving please contact: Society of Antiquaries of Scotland on 0131 247 4133 and visit www.socantscot.org/support-us

Charity No. SC010440



The Clan Macneil Association of America

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



" O'n D'thainig thu."

Remember the men from whom you have come.

The Clan Macneil President: Robert "Bob" Neill,
183 Pheasant Walk Way - Vilas, NC 28692
raneill@juno.com

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



Society of Antiquaries of **Scotland**

Thursday 3rd November - Sunday 6th November, Elements Festival Edinburgh - Incorporation of Goldsmiths and Lyon & Turnbull

The Elements festival comprises an exhibition, a variety of events and a fair showcasing some of the UK's most exquisite work in silver and jewellery. The Incorporation of Goldsmiths and Lyon & Turnbull have combined their strengths to produce Elements, a powerhouse of talent for all generations. www.elementsfestival.co.uk

Tuesday 15th November, RCPE, 9 Queen Street, Edinburgh

Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA) Scotland - Culture and Heritage: National Essentials.

A lecture by Dr Loyd Grossman CBE FRSA FSA Scot in memory of the late Mary Bryden, formerly of NMS and former RSA Scotland Committee Member.

Tuesday 15th November, commencing 6pm. Venue: RCPE, 9 Queen Street, Edinburgh.

Booking and payment required, early bird offer £5 for bookings and payment made via cheque reaching Mrs Ann Packard FRSA HonFRIAS by post before mid September using this [form](#).

<https://www.thersa.org/fellowship/in-your-area/regions/scotland#>



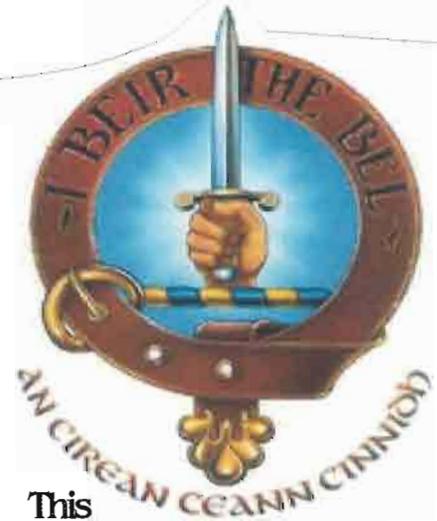
Charlie's coming home again!

Charles Edward Stuart, aka Bonnie Prince Charlie is returning to Scotland, or rather a portrait of him.

The portrait by Alan Ramsay was the only known portrait of Charlie painted in Scotland at the time of his doomed 1745 attempt to reclaim the throne.

Only recently identified and located at Gosford House, the painting will be on display at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery.

Clan Bell International



This old West Marche Clan, one of 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 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 leadership, the Bells ceased to exist as a viable clan.

Clan Bell International (CBI) in the United States represents Clan Bell world-wide 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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David E. Bell
1513 Anterra Drive
Wake Forest, NC 27587
debellimd@aol.com

Visit our Web site:
clanbell.org

Membership Coordinator
Matthew T. Bell
5911 Braden Run
Bradenton, FL 34202
cbell99999@tampabay.
rr.com

Local, County and Town Histories help you in your family research!

Bryan L. Mulcahy, MLS

Local history books are excellent but underutilized sources for genealogical research. These sources often provide detailed accounts of early settlement, migration patterns in and out of the area, original settlers, and profile the economic, political, and religious realities in a community. These issues discussed usually impacted life decisions made by our ancestors.

County and town histories are beneficial regardless of whether the family lived in the city or in a rural area. They are often underutilized in the sense that many beginners either ignore them or they only check the index for surnames of interest. From a genealogical or historical research perspective, these are the most important types of information usually found using these sources:

1. Epidemics and related major health oriented events.
2. Political and legislative mandates, laws, etc. that impacted daily life
3. Ethnic, social, religious, and political celebrations
4. Mobilization of troops for various conflicts, wars, etc.
5. Specific details about business, education, economic and/or farming trends, crops, etc.
6. Biographical sketches of prominent citizens and early settlers. Many of these histories were published regularly from the last half of the nineteenth century until the early part of the twentieth century. In addition to casual mention of thousands of individuals, many contain detailed biographical sketches of hundreds of others that can provide essential clues for

research.

7. Because groups from the “old country” emigrated in groups, if the population of an area was highly ethnic in nature, many clues will appear in these sources.

8. Portraits, Maps, Engravings of Places Ancestors Lived: Many county histories include portraits of prominent individuals and etchings of courthouses, religious institutions, schools, and other institutions. Maps included in most of these volumes are also important for understanding the place(s) where our ancestors resided.



9. Institutional Histories: These histories usually contain detailed information about the various institutions in a particular area.

These would include churches/synagogues, orphanages, charitable institutions, schools, hospitals and dispensaries, cultural institutions, cemeteries, businesses, and methods of available transportation are frequently discussed in great detail. The information found concerning churches or synagogues can be especially helpful given some of the challenges found in finding pre-1900 civil records. Church records often fill gaps where civil records don't exist or can't be found. Even where civil records are available, these church records may contain information not included in civil registrations.

10. Newspapers: Many researchers and experts regard the historical newspapers as the most accurate and comprehensive source for local information. Local histories can contain important information including dates of publication, area of coverage, and political affiliation. Religious and ethnic newspapers and periodicals are also often mentioned.

BLM 10/6/2016



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Applications will be considered for **one week** scholarships to *The School of Scottish Arts* (for dance) in Minneapolis, North Carolina and the *North American Academy of Piping and Drumming* in Valle Crucis, North Carolina, starting in January 2017. Check your mail (if you are current member) for the announcement.

If you are not a member, just call and ask for the announcement or check out our website at www.scottishheritageusa.org.

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Understanding the Scottish Naming Pattern

Christine Woodcock

A helpful piece of information to have when researching in the Scottish records is an understanding of the Scottish Naming Pattern. Here's how it works:

- ◆ First Born Son – named for the paternal grandfather
- ◆ Second Born Son – named for the maternal grandfather
- ◆ Third Son named for the father – unless he shares a name with one of the grandfathers
- ◆ Fourth and subsequent sons were often named after father or mother's brothers
- ◆ First Born Daughter – named for the maternal grandmother
- ◆ Second Born Daughter – named for the pa-

ternal grandmother

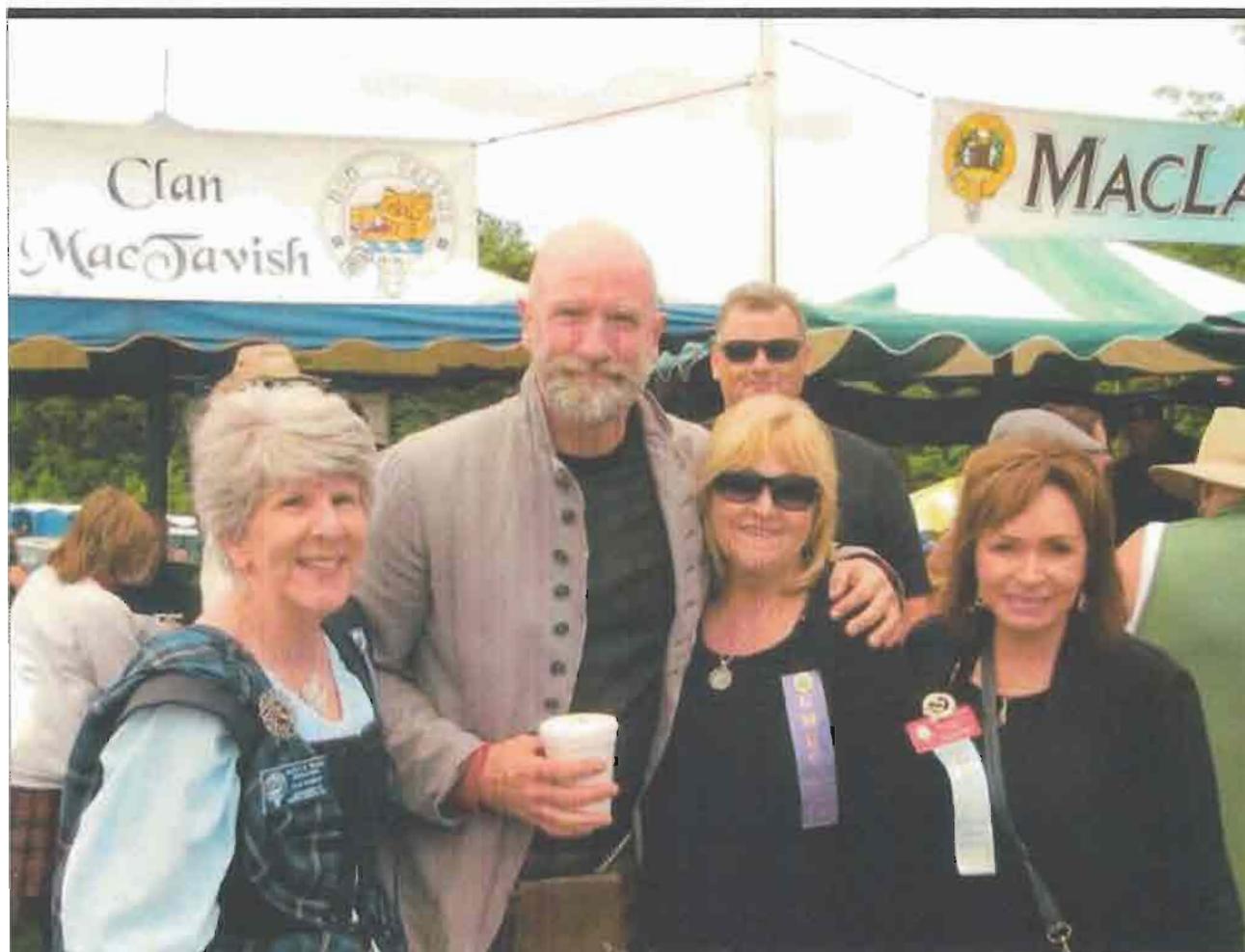
- ◆ Third Daughter – named for the mother – unless she shares a name with one of the grandmothers

- ◆ Subsequent daughters were generally named for mother or father's sisters

In addition, if one of the first three children died, the next baby born of the same sex was given that name so that the name would live on for future generations.

Add to this the diminutives of names. For instance: Ellen, Helen, and Eleanor are often used interchangeably. For the most part, Ellen is the diminutive

Continued on page 23



Nancy Miller, Graham McTavish of Highlander fame, Ronda Ramsey Shackelford and Sue Anne Ramsey 2016 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.



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Anderson Estates, Barbeth, New Abbey, Dumfries, DG2 8DB

The French Connection : Aubigny-sur-Nère

Aubigny-sur-Nère: French-Scottish Days

The event was held from the 14th through the 17th of July in the old French Stuart city of Aubigny-sur-Nère.

Historically, the King of France had given to John Stuart of Darnley the keys of this city to thank him for the support he granted to the French Army with his Scottish troops during the Hundred Years War against England in 1423. This was the beginning of the famous “Auld Alliance”.

John Stuart built the castle that remains to this day. It is here that French-Scottish Days are held each year.

The Aubigny Games are the major Scottish event in continental Europe and for the very first time, the Clan Ramsay was represented and very active.

The 2016 event welcomed more than 20,000 visitors, 250 pipers, and 6 participating clans each with their own well-appointed booths. Also offered during the event, situated beside the city hall, were Highlander camps, medieval camps, kilt makers, and of course whisky sellers.

The Six Participating Clans with Booths

Cameron, Hay, MacKinnin, MacKenzie, Ramsay & Stewart

Clans Represented with Members Only were Lamont & MacGregor

The ambiance of the event was unique. From 9 AM till 9 PM, people enjoyed meeting, talking, drinking, eating and celebrating the Auld Alliance between French and Scottish.

The Clan Ramsay had the opportunity to meet the “Naoned and District Pipe Band” which proudly wears the Ramsay Blue Ancient tartan.

Because of this Ramsay connection they made an extra for us. Following one of the daily parades a group of their pipers paid a visit to our booth, forming a half circle of pipers they played a song for us. Then we obviously shared some glasses of whisky, we did not have a quaich yet to do so, to thank them. We have maintained contact with the group and we are currently sharing our events.

This wonderful event ended with a long parade, a walk where each clan had a place.

After this major event for us, several families



Philippe & Magali Dubin II and Laurent Jaunaux

decided to join our clan. We are now 12 families in France. Clan Ramsay was honored to attend this prestigious event.



Submitted by Laurent Jaunaux, Clan Ramsay Commissioner to France. <http://www.jaunaux.fr>

Lady Magali Dubin and Lady Stéphanie Jaunaux

Clan MacCord Society

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

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

Harlan D. McCord

President/Chief

4403 Vickery Ave East
Tacoma, WA 98443-2016

Email:

cmccord1234@msn.com



Clan Home Society (International)



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

President Rodney Green
317 Oak Ridge Drive
Moody, AL 35004
205-368-5286
lawnmower391@gmail.com



Clan Home Society (Int.) Stone Mountain 2015

Isle of Man horse trams receive reprieve!

Keith Fender

DOUGLAS, Isle of Man: The much-criticized decision to cease operation of the only regular horse-drawn tram service in the British Isles reported by Trains Newswire earlier this year has been reversed.

The Isle of Man government has announced that it will take on responsibility for the operation of the Douglas Bay horse tram service for the 2016 summer season as a temporary solution and will use the existing vehicles with horses owned by the local town council in Douglas.



The government already runs the island's steam railway and the Manx Electric Railway, which uses heritage streetcars. The horse tramway, which is celebrating its 140th anniversary in August 2016, is seen as an important visitor attraction and an iconic part of the Isle of Man's cultural heritage.



The reprieve is billed as temporary. Planners are looking at longer-term solutions to preserve the future of the horse trams as part of plans to improve the sea-front area where the trams run.



A long time ago, on an island far, far away... The iconic beehive stone huts of Skellig Michael in Ireland will provide a hideout for Luke Skywalker in the next installment of the *Star Wars* movie franchise, or, maybe not.

The island's rugged remoteness that made it such a secure refuge for Irish Monks and fugitive Jedi knights also made it a difficult place to film, that plus the fact

Film makers WANTED to use the Irish Skellig Michael as hideout

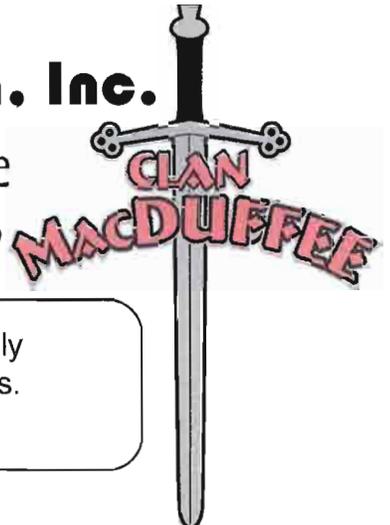
that the place is a protected bird sanctuary.

So, after a brief visit to get some location shots, Skellig Michael will actually be simulated in a London film studio.

With thanks to *Six Nations, One Soul* - The Newsletter of the Celtic League American Branch for Bealtaine, 2016. Join by emailing Stephen Paul DeVillo at <SPDeVillo@earthlink.net>.

MacDuffee Clan Society of America, Inc.

of Clan Macfie



Ceud Mile Failte! 100,000 Welcomes!

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

President: Thomas P. McDuffee

tpmijm@aol.com

Treasurer: David M. McDuffie

dnmcduffie@gmail.com

Genealogist: Richard Ledyard

865-671-2555

rledyard@tds.net



MacDuffee
Clan Society
of America



Naming Patterns, *continued from page 17*

of Eleanor. Ellen is the common pronunciation of Helen. Nellie can also be the diminutive for Helen or Eleanor.

Jean and Jane are often used interchangeably. This gets complicated when you have a daughter of each name. Janet is often also referred to as Jane but can also be Jennie or Jessie.

Mary and Marion both often get referred to as May, Mamie or Maisie while Margaret usually goes by Peg or Peggy, but can also be referred to as Maggie or Meg.

◆ Catherine, Kathleen and Kate are generally one and the same.

◆ Isabel and Isabella are one and the same but may be also be known as Bella, Belle, Sibby or Tibbie.

◆ Elizabeth rarely is Elizabeth, usually being Betty or Bess, but perhaps also Beth, Lizzie, Elsie or Libby.

◆ For men, the diminutives are also readily used:

◆ John may be Ian, Iain, or Jock.

◆ George may be Jordy, Geordy or Dod.

◆ James may be Jamie, Jimmy or Hamish.

It gets even better when every eldest son marries an eldest daughter: Henry marries a Margaret – they have a Henry and a Margaret – that Henry marries a Margaret or Margaret marries a Henry. That’s when the “Auld Henry”, “Wee Henry”, “Young Harry”, “Big Henry”, “Oor Harry” and “Maggie’s Harry” all come into play. Easy Peasy keeping them all straight!

About Christine Woodstock

Scottish born, Canadian raised, Christine Woodcock is a genealogy educator with an expertise in the Scottish records.

She enjoys sharing new resources to assist others in their quest to find and document their heritage.

Christine is also a lecturer, author and blogger.

She is the Director of Genealogy Tours of Scotland (www.genealogytoursofscotland.ca) and enjoys taking fellow Scots “home” to do onsite genealogy research and to discover their own Scottish heritage



Hot Dog or galette-saucisse?

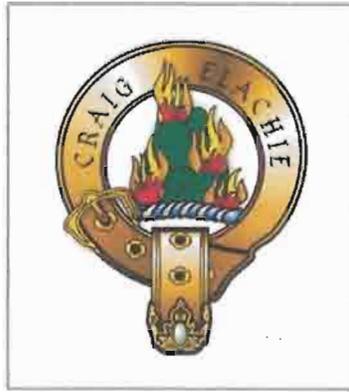
Americans know perfectly well that the “hot dog” is an American invention - or, is it? A traditional Breton delicacy, the *galette-saucisse*, may claim rights of prior invention.

A grilled pork sausage enclosed in a buckwheat crepe (*galette*), the *galette-saucisse* can trace its origins back to the 1400s, though its current popularity goes back to a street stall in Rennes convenient to the soccer stadium, where it was a popular one-handed meal for football fans.

Today, it is the official snack at Rennes’ Roazhon Park Stadium.



It can be served with mustard, but fans sometimes garnish it with ketchup - or mayonnaise...even onion and cheese!



Clan Grant is not just a historical society, it is a **living** clan whose members consider themselves extended family and kin and who keep their heritage alive through participation in many gatherings and events around the country. Your ancestors are calling you, honor them by joining the society today!

Membership in the Society is open to any person who is lineally descended from the surname "Grant", a recognized Clan Grant sept name, or anyone who is generally interested in or in sympathy with the purposes of the Clan Grant Society.

Membership includes the Quarterly newsletter, "Craigellachie", via email or regular mail. It is also available in the Members Only section of the website.

Visit our WEB page at <http://www.clangrant-us.org>
or like us on Facebook at
<https://www.facebook.com/clangrantusa/>

Stand Fast, Craigellachie!

Craigellachie (pronounced Kra-GEL'-a-key) is Gaelic for "rock of alarm." The Clan Grant motto is "**Stand Fast, Craigellachie!**" *Craigellachie* is the hill or mountain behind the modern town of Aviemore. It is also the name of a village situated about thirty miles down the River Spey from Aviemore.



Flower of the Forest

Jeri Elizabeth Daniel Martin died at home, on Monday, October 3, 2016. She was 86 years old. Mrs. Martin was born on September 21, 1930 in Atlanta, Georgia at Crawford Long Hospital to the late Charles Young Daniel and the late Cuba Nazworthy Gassiert.



Jeri Daniel Martin

She is preceded in death by her husband, Bruce LeRoy Martin, and her son, Charles Robert Meadows.

Mrs. Martin graduated from the Academy of the Sacred Heart of Mary in 1947 and attended Columbia University, both in New York City.

Mrs. Martin was a talented artist and an enthusiastic world traveler.

She was conferred the rank of Dame Commandeur (DCTJ) in the The Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem – a philanthropic organization. She was one of the first women admitted to SMOTJ on her own merit.

She was the Tennessee Commissioner of the MidSouth Region of Clan Donald USA and a member of Clan MacTavish and multiple other clans. She was also a member of Clan McRowdy.

Her biggest accomplishment and pride was being clean and sober with Alcoholics Anonymous. She was one of the first women to join and her 52 year commitment to Alcoholics Anonymous helped countless people find recovery.

Mrs. Martin became an ordained minister in the late 1960s and counseled and performed marriage ceremonies for many couples.

She also studied Healing Touch in New Zealand with the Maori people and was made an honorary member of their tribe.

She was a beloved subject of the Kingdome of Raknar and was a Lady of the Kingdome.

Mrs. Martin is survived by children: Susan (Alex) Partyka, Calder William Martin, Drysdale (James) Wheaton and Young (Donna) Martin, Grandchildren: Allison (James) Battle, Joanna Martin, Peggy (Amos) Hawkins, Alyssia (John) Freeman, Kyle (Brandy) Wheaton, Jonathan (Crystal) Partyka, and Rebecca Wheaton, as well as thirteen great-grandchildren.

The Celebration of Life gathering was held Saturday, 8 October at her home in Lebanon, Tennessee. It was attended by an astonishing number of friends and family.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to: The Hagar Memorial Scholarship Fund (of the Kingdome of Raknar), c/o Bobby Lee Hurt, 78 Liz Lane, Glasgow, KY 42141.

I really could write a book about the friendship of Jeri and me.

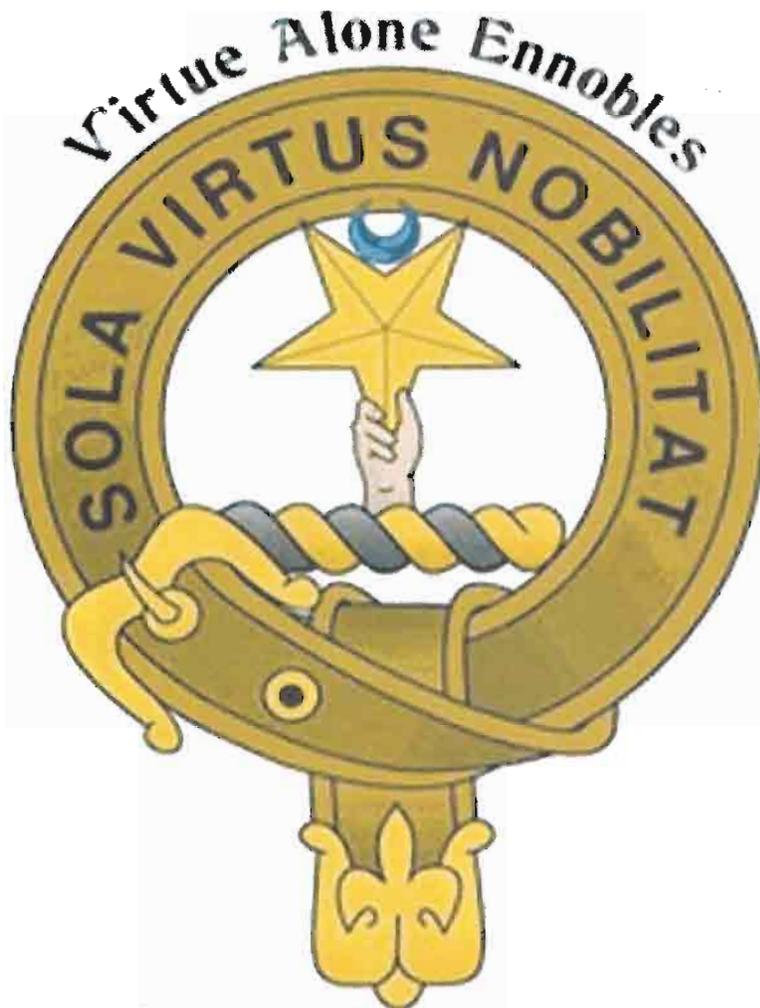
For more than 30 years we have been as close as sisters and have had many adventures and many wonderful times filled with laughter and sometimes sad times with tears. She has been with me through the hardest times and the most joyous of times.

As an Ordained Minister, Jeri conducted the beautiful services for Tom and me - our Scottish Handfasting at the Glasgow Games and also at our wedding - held in her lovely garden!

I cannot imagine how my life will be without Jeri being a part of it.

I cannot imagine anyone being welcomed at the Pearly Gates with as much love and joy as Jeri has already been shown. She is at last free of her pain.

*With love to Jeri's family
and always, love to Jeri....Beth & Tom*



An Airean Ceann Cinnidh

bloodlines evolving from the regions of Caithness, Fordell, Glencoe, Shetlands/Liddesdale and Ulster. Henderson's from the Glencoe region have strong ties to the MacDonald Clan and were renowned as pipers and bodyguards to the Chief (MacIan). Henderson's from the Caithness region have ties to the Clan Gunn.

MOTTO: Sola Virtus Nobilitat (Virtue Alone Ennobles)

WAR CRY: "The Henderson's Are Here!"

Clan Henderson

The sons of Henry (MacEanruig) are a family as old as any clan in the Highlands. In modern times, Clan Henderson traces lineage through the Chief of the Name and Arms of Henderson, Alistair of Fordell. However, in times more distant Henderson's can claim descent from a King of the Picts and down through five unique

Society Contact: : Mark Henderson (Hendo28@comcast.net)

Website: <http://www.clanhendersonsociety.org>

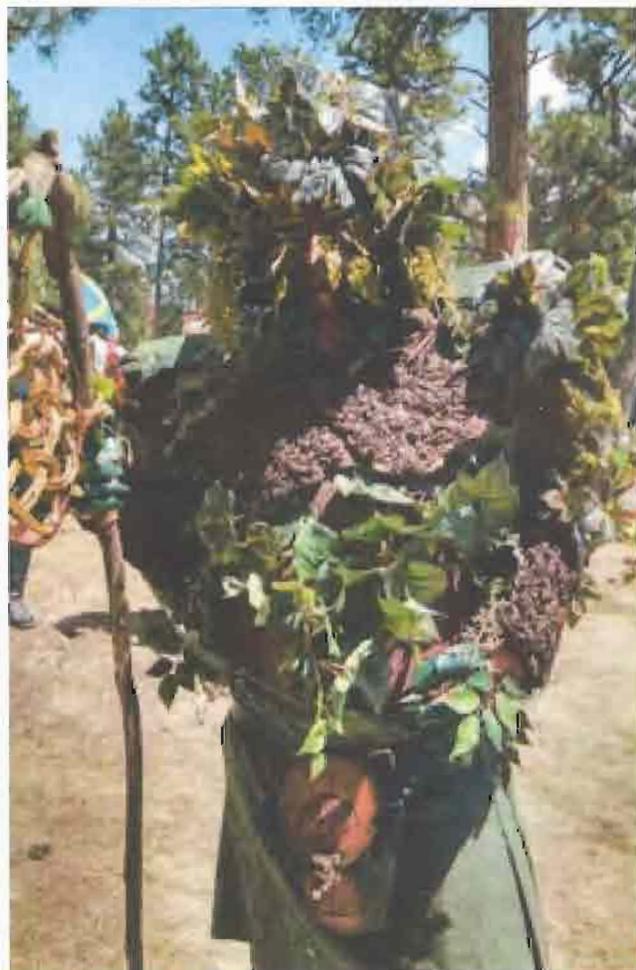
Clan Davidson mourns, *continued from page 1*

Davidson, wife of our former Chief, Alister (Jock), passed away without pain or discomfort at her residence in New Zealand. She was 89. Mary was surrounded by her two sons, daughters-in-law and grandchildren at the time of her death, around 6:30 PM, NZ Time.

Many of us will remember Mary with great fondness from her visit with Jock to the Loch Norman Highland Games in 2001.

Mary was struck down several years ago with a debilitating condition which kept her confined to her bed, and away from her favorite garden and getting out and about. I can only hope that she can be reunited with Jock and her friends in a better world.”

Clan Ramsay's Jesse Glover as the Green Man!



Estes Park, Colorado Longs Peak Scottish Games 2016.



Creativity lives!
Aunt* of the groom, creates tartan Unity Candle

Friends were married recently - after their beautiful Handfasting ceremony held at this summer's Glasgow Highland Games.

The couple had requested a Walker tartan Unity Candle for their ceremony and The aunt of the groom, created this one...simply weaving the proper colored ribbons around the candle.

You'll see one view where the yellow, blue, green and red shows...and another when the green, blue and red are prominent.



* All involved here wished to remain anonymous.



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.



WHY WOULD AMERICANS WANT ARMORIAL BEARINGS?

David Robert Wooten

Executive Director, The American College of Heraldry

From *The Armiger's News*, October 2006

This article was originally requested by Burke's Peerage & Gentry International Register of Arms, and appeared in their newsletter, Volume 1, Issue 2

One of the more consistent threads that run through various internet newsgroups – and one of the more common questions I am asked in general conversation – revolves around Americans' seeming obsession with all things heraldic. Why in the world would a country who "threw off the yoke of oppression" over 200 years ago want to glom onto an archaic system of armor, shields, helmets, etc., that is still prevalent throughout the United Kingdom and, in fact, the greater part of Europe?

After all, when America's founding fathers laid out the ground rules for the new country, they went out of their way to deny the use of armorial bearings by the new country's citizenry, presumably to "de-noble" the whole class strata prevalent on the other side of the Atlantic. All well and good – at least for the first few dozen decades.

This is not to say that heraldry was non-existent in the Colonies – in fact, heraldry flourished in the new United States, albeit without government sanction or regulation. Most of the early gentry proudly displayed their ancestral arms – essentially defeating the purpose (at least in public display) of "leveling the playing field" as far as the founding fathers' concept of "all men [being] created equal" was concerned. Armorial bearings continued their "institutional" purpose, representing colleges, businesses, organizations and the like – all without the regulation of a sovereign power. And perhaps that is precisely what allowed heraldry to flourish in the United States – freedom to display what you wanted, where you wanted.

That being said, the lack of regulation also allowed heraldry (in the United States) to go off on some rather ludicrous tangents. Examples of "bad" heraldry are rampant throughout American institutions – most notably in the government itself. States' and cities' "armorial bearings" are quite often examples of lumping as many elements as possible into one achievement, often with gaudy end-results.

In the 230 years since the signing of the *Declaration of Independence*, there have been several attempts to establish heraldic institutions in the United States. More often than not, these organizations – all non-official – were established by wealthy businessmen wishing to establish private "clubs," with the exclusivity of armorial bearings as a membership restriction. As one might expect, these entities usually fell by the wayside not long after their inauguration.

However, in the late 20th century, there was a seeming groundswell of renewed interest in heraldry by Americans. Perhaps it was tied to the bicentennial celebration, or perhaps merely coincidence. It can doubtless be shown that the greater availability of genealogical materials, especially with the rise of the internet in the last decade of the last century, piqued the interest of individuals wishing to track down their ancestry – and it was there that they would have run across heraldry for perhaps the first time. In any event, books on the subject became more available – they had obviously always been around, including Eugene Zieber's 1895 work *Heraldry in America*, but now they were being reprinted and available (often in volume overrun editions) to the general public.

My own interest in heraldry was fostered at a young age by my parents, who also ignited a genealogical fuse that resulted in many years of my own research work on my various family lines and the ultimate publication of a modest tome on my various family lines. Through that research, one of my maternal lines strayed into the Bouchier family, which is where I first ran into armorial bearings. The next step is one which is too-often leapt upon by the novice heraldist – I took all 4 of my primary lines (maternal and paternal grandparents), grabbed a copy of Burke's *General Armory*, looked them up, and began furiously researching and rendering a quartet of arms which I painted and presented to my parents (who displayed them in their home for years afterward). How I decided which of the specific arms to latch upon out of each surname escapes me, but I'm sure my logic followed that of most armshungry neophytes who happen upon Burke's and say to themselves, "Aha! My name is Smith. I've found my arms! Now which one looks the handsomest? That's the one I'll use..."

Further, in my own genealogical research, I came across a couple of tomes by predecessors trying to link my own surname to famous historical individuals – and these works were "common" as the definitive works on the Wooten line. As it turns out, my own surname developed from Watton (Northamptonshire), and while there are numerous Wootens throughout England, I was not related to them (which brings up the subject of "bucket shops" and the problems that arise from their existence – more on that later). It took a fellow genealogist to source out the true lineage of our family, rather than the numerous books individuals had published erroneously linking us to a Dr. Wooten who served as a surgeon at Jamestowne. As it happened, this famous surgeon, to whom everyone desperately wanted to link genealogically for the sake of notoriety, served one year in the Colonies, then returned to England *decessit sine prole legitima* – a bit difficult to descend from someone who had no children. And the previous "researchers" compounded the problem further by adorning their publications with the arms of a Wooton of Kent (wholly unrelated to our lineage or the Jamestowne surgeon).

Thankfully for me, the American College of Heraldry was established in 1972 as part of the renewed interest in the subject. Albeit a small organization with little public exposure, it nonetheless took a more serious, "regimented" approach to the matter, attempting to establish rules and standards of practice for registration of arms. It should be noted that, in its infancy, the College toyed with the idea of "granting" arms – or at least calling the registrations they produced (without government oversight) grants. The notion was dropped in short order, as the founding members of the organization saw a need

Clan Davidson Society USA



Davidson Clansmen dominate the Parade of Tartans at the International Gathering of Clan Davidson sponsored by the Clan Davidson Society USA. The event was held June, 2011, in conjunction with the Kansas City Highland Games.



Is your name listed here? If so, then you may be interested in membership in the **Clan Davidson Society USA!**

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

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

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

For more information, check out our website at [www.clandavidsonusa.com] or contact the Society's Membership Registrar at [sennachie@earthlink.net].



for international "acceptance" of their work – or at least that the newly-formed organization did not attempt to lay claim to more than its humble origins would allow.

The College later had the advantage of being listed in Stephen Friar's *A Dictionary of Heraldry*, which became a bible, of sorts, for those who could find it – usually in the reference section of most larger public libraries. It was here that I first ran across the American College of Heraldry, during my aforementioned furious heraldic "research," and decided to write to them to register arms which I was quite certain would be easily recorded in my name. I had the fortune of meeting – through correspondence – Dr. David Pittman Johnson, the then-President and life blood of the organization, who politely pointed out the error of my ways, and directed me in the correct course to a final registration of arms.

From its very small beginnings, College membership grew, and a regular newsletter began to be circulated – "The Armiger's News," still produced to-day and in its 39th [as of 2017] year of publication. The quarterly newsletter details ongoing registrations with the College, as well as articles on the subject of heraldry – historical and contemporary, American and international – submitted by members as well as heraldic experts worldwide.

So back to the original question - why would Americans want armorial bearings? Primarily, because they are proud of their heritage, and whether they are of German, Spanish, Hungarian, English, Irish, whatever descent, heraldry is a tie to their past – or at the very least a nod to their origins. Most individuals who contact our organization have come to understand (through the growing wealth of solid information about heraldry available in print and online) that the odds of their being entitled to bear historically-granted arms are essentially nil. Thus, with a little explanation, they are pleased to be able to establish a new armorial tradition in their own family to pass down to their descendants.

A second, and less often acknowledged, reason for the popularity of heraldry in the United States is, to put it politely, ego. And that's not necessarily a bad thing. Assumption of armorial bearings is certainly a "noble" practice, and while there will always be those individuals who believe that assumed arms are not on par with granted arms (an argument I will not go into at this time), the mere fact that one displays armorial bearings somehow raises one's status (at least in one's own mind). Given the prevalence of armorial usage in personal stationery, business cards, heraldic jewelry, etc., the practice (which has no "practical" purpose) is certainly a way to show off a bit.

Do these registrations carry the same weight as a grant? No, of course not. But, most of the individuals who contact our organization either a) don't have sufficient genealogical proofs (positive or negative) to pass along to the College of Arms (or similar heraldic entity) for verification of entitlement to bear existing arms; or b) don't have the often-exorbitant fees necessary to obtain a legitimate grant of arms (a grant of arms from England, Scotland, etc. can easily BEGIN at \$7,500US). Thus, they come to the American College of Heraldry, ideally with eyes wide open (we do not pretend to be anything more than a registering and publishing entity), in hopes of obtaining sound advice on "proper" heraldic usage, so that the arms they ultimately assume and are registered meet with commonly "acceptable" form.

True, there are organizations (both in the U.S. and abroad, but primarily in the U.S.) that will offer heraldic advice at no cost, and these organizations are to be lauded for their contributions to the art and science of heraldry. But, those entities neither publish the arms in print, issue registration certificates, nor offer hand drawn renderings of the newly-devised armorial bearings. The College's current fee of \$325.00 covers the costs of an artist for the rendering, publishing the registration in "The Armiger's News," as well as the compilation volumes of *The Heraldic Register of America* (which includes a chronological listing of all registered arms with the College), soon to be in its 18th Volume, as well as administrative costs including advertising, website maintenance, etc.

To quote from the College's website (www.americancollegeofheraldry.org), the College has "the aim of aiding in the study and perpetuation of heraldry in the United States and abroad. Registrations are restricted by policy to American citizens or residents, as well as to others with significant personal or business connections in America."

Our further goal is to educate the public so that, ultimately, all heraldic "bucket shops" are extinct. Bucket shops do nothing but damage to the public's understanding of true heraldry. As I mentioned previously, these vendors sell to individuals who may or may not know the true etymology of their surname, and if, as with the case of my own surname, the name changes through the decades (whether by error of spelling or on purpose), the name which a bucket shop assigns to you may have nothing whatsoever to do with arms to which you may legitimately be entitled. Again, to quote from the College's website:

"The notorious 'Coat of arms for the Name of Jones, Smith, or whatever,' purchasable by mail order or in one's local shopping mall, represents no more than improper and illegitimate armorial bearings. To buy and bear these commercially produced arms is to claim for oneself a direct kinship which has only the most remote possibility of validity, and is thereby to deny one's own legitimate and rightful line of descent. Such infraction of armorial regulation and custom constitutes a flagrant abuse of arms which no knowledgeable and honorable person would intentionally commit.

"Sadly, most of the heraldic abuse in this country is done by honest, well-meaning persons. They greatly admire the heraldic tradition, but in their desire to participate in that tradition they inadvertently abuse heraldic arms due to a lack of familiarity with heraldic regulations and customs. While such armorial abuse does not apparently violate state or federal statute in this country at this time, still to usurp the use of another person's coat of arms is highly improper and is a dishonest practice. Such conduct disregards the regulations of all recognized heraldry and violates the rights of the legitimate owners of the arms."

The American College of Heraldry welcomes anyone interested in learning more about heraldry and/or registering arms – whether already assumed, or arms in need of development – to visit our constantly-evolving website (www.americancollegeofheraldry.org) and review the materials found therein. Our extensive FAQs page often answers most of the commonly asked questions about what our organization can and cannot do, as well as providing detailed information on heraldic usage. I can be reached by email at dwooten@americancollegeofheraldry.org.

The American College of Heraldry
Office of the Executive Director
1818 North Taylor St, Suite B, PMB №312, Little Rock, AR 72207
www.americancollegeofheraldry.org



David Robert Wooten
Executive Director



Genealogical uses for insurance papers and applications



Bryan L. Mulcahy, MLS

One interesting and overlooked source for potential genealogical information is insurance applications and policies. These policies were taken out by many of our ancestors on themselves or family members. Insurance policies will enable the researcher to pinpoint an individual or family in a specific time and place at the time the policy was applied for or issued.

Because of how important these policies were for the security of the family, most of our parents, grandparents, etc. made significant efforts to ensure the policies were kept up to date and usually saved all applicable paperwork and related documents. Remember that before computers, the burden of proof in type of claim was squarely on the policy holder to prove all information. Because of the importance of these papers, finding the old files is another proven way to track your ancestors as they moved. Some people had multiple insurance policies for various situations. In the past, people could collect on multiple policies for medical, life, and other special issues. Today, laws have changed to try and stop or restrict practices like these.

The annual policy statements can provide clues on the economic status of the family and clues to other family members and/or relatives that were listed as beneficiaries. In some cases, depending on a variety of circumstances, beneficiaries may or may not have been direct family members.

One of the most important documents from a genealogy research perspective can be the applications. The types of questions that all applicants had to answer can be extremely beneficial for research purposes. By modern standards, many of these questions asked on pre-1970 applications were struck down or had to be significantly reworded due to litigation involving an invasion of personal privacy. Examples may

- include:
1. Religious Affiliation and Name/Contact Information of Pastor or Rabbi
 2. Name and contact information for 3 personal references (not relatives) that could attest to **your** character and verify your employment and financial status.
 3. Name and contact information of 3 relatives that can verify family related information
 4. Banking and financial information.
 5. Name and contact information for all employers including supervisors to verify all data related to employment.
 6. For most medical policies, applicants had to provide name and contact information of physician, and a personal and family medical profile which they would verify with the physician.

Even if all you find are the carbon paper copies of the original documents, study them under clear light to see if they contain potential information.

Most people made it a practice to purchase carbon paper when compiling important documents. In some cases, policies, applications, and important civil documents were sent to people and had to be filled out in triplicate. When these documents were mailed or distributed, they would have carbon paper attached in the packet. The person filling out the paperwork was supposed to return the completed document.

In most circumstances, the instruction stipulated that they would keep one of the multi-colored copies.

Some people did so while others cut off the carbon paper and kept it to prevent anyone from writing over their information.

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18th Anniversary Concert

The
PIPES
of
CHRISTMAS

Saturday DEC 17th 2PM & 7PM

Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church
921 Madison Avenue at 73rd Street, NYC

Sunday DEC 18th 3PM Central Presbyterian Church, 70 Maple Street, Summit, NJ

FOR TICKETS VISIT www.pipesofchristmas.com