



Beth's Newfangled FAMILY TREE

AN INTERNET ALL ETHNICITIES GENEALOGICAL PUBLICATION

THE HOMETOWN PUBLICATION FOR THE WORLDWIDE SCOTTISH COMMUNITY

Vol. XI No. 5 *Beth's Newfangled Family Tree* Section A October 2017

Last year's *Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle* gathering



With many thanks to our friend, who sent along this photograph of last year's gathering of The Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle. This is an order of chivalry associated with Scotland. The current version of the Order was founded in 1687 by King James VII of Scotland (James II of England and Ireland) who asserted that he was reviving an earlier Order. The Order consists of the Sovereign and sixteen Knights and Ladies, as well as certain "extra" knights (members of the British Royal Family and foreign mon-

archs). The Sovereign alone grants membership of the Order; he or she is not advised by the Government, as occurs with most other Orders.

The Order's primary emblem is the thistle, the national flower of Scotland. The motto is *Nemo me impune lacessit* (Latin for "No one provokes me with impunity").[1] The same motto appears on the Royal Coat of Arms of the United Kingdom for use in Scotland and some pound coins, and is also the motto of the Royal

Continued on page 15

EDINBURGH
MILITARY
TATTOO

From the 2017 Royal Military Tattoo in Edinburgh
Clans Marjoribanks, Macneil & Macrae
pages 27, 29, 31 this section

A letter from your editor... I have invented yet another way to tear up my computer - or, learn from this so it doesn't happen to you!



Sometimes, it is embarrassing to admit when you have made a HUGE mistake in judgement. Nah, it is ALWAYS hard to admit when you have made such a really DUMB error.

I confess. I did just that this past month.

Mmmm. I guess the only way to tell this tale of woe is to start at the beginning.

About a year ago, Tom surprised me with a new "book reader". (If you don't know by now, I am a true, dyed in the wool Bookaholic.) I read cereal boxes, labels on cans...any kind of book that I can find - almost.

I was so thrilled and excited to have this device. I made arrangements to have a library card from the library in Atlanta, as with the device, I could check out all kinds of books without there being any charge. Yaha.

To make this part of the story short. It never worked. I spoke with librarians down there. It wouldn't work. I couldn't download any free books from any of the companies that offer them.

Finally, I was able to get books from a site that offers free books (Can you tell? I didn't want to have to spend lots of dollars on purchasing books just to read once. My book appetite is such that I think I have read about a book a day since I was about five years old).

However, the selection of free books that my device would allow me to read simply were not the kind of books I like to read. I like to read good stories with actual plots and good characters. I love it when they are about something interesting.

I call the books that I could make come to my device, "Bodice Rippers." Not my book of tea at all.

Time passed and I assuaged my desire for books by visiting thrift shops and their book bargains!

Finally, there was a break in my schedule and I thought, "Ah hah! Now I can call the company from whom Tom bought the book device and figure out how

to make it work!"

I spent about an hour looking for a way to actually speak to a person...and when I did find one, I immediately called it.

The phone was immediately answered and a gentleman said, "How may we help you?"

I answered, "My book reading device won't work. Can you help me?"

"Oh, yes, of course," he replied. He asked me a few simple questions - which even I could answer - and then he said, "I think it is a problem with your security programs on your computer."

Made sense to me.

Then, he said, "Let me connect you with our technical department here at Famous Book Dealer."

"Ok," I said naively.

When the "technical department" answered, the man said, "Let me check your computer so we can fix that book device of yours."

Normally, I only allow the Canon tech department and AOL Assist into my computer...but, the man said, "It will only take about two minutes and we can have your reading device up and going."

That's when I said the fateful words, "OK."

What happened actually, but I did not know it at that time, was that these people had hacked the phone lines of the Famous Book Dealer. The "technical department" put a password into my computer that I did not know about.

It only took a few seconds for me to smell a very large rat. "I have AOL Assist," I said, "I think I prefer for them to work on my computer." I hung up and called AOL Assist.

It ended up that I had to take my computer to my friend, who is a legitimaate computer repair person, and he had to "wipe" it clean.

Continued on page 5

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After 9/11, 1600 people died in automobile accidents, after they switched their travel plans from flying to driving

Letter from your editor, continued from page 3

I have thought long and hard about this...and have decided I would much rather have a tooth pulled without novacaine than to have to rebuild my computer!

Besides costing enough that I could have had a wonderful shopping spree for weeks and weeks at my thrift store and used book stores, it took about two days to reinstall everything.

I did have help from both AOL Assist and the Canon tech department. Both of these are wonderful. Their techs are polite, knowledgeable and really good at what they do.

I will admit, that I was so frightened and upset over this that I could hardly dial the phone and my hands were shaking so much that I had trouble even doing my one great computer skill - "Clicking OK."

Finally, my publishing program was back and my printer would work. Thanks to the genius of my computer repair person here in Clarkesville, I did not lose anything...my files, my photographs...everything was in place.

I did lose two essential programs. The first was my photo editing program - which is no longer offered. You can't purchase it. Tom and I looked and looked for editing programs that would work for me...and couldn't find anything. It was a free program to start with.

Then, a miracle occurred. Looking in my "Download" file, I saw where I had downloaded my wonderful editing program years ago. Lo and Behold! I was able to just install it again. Whew!

The other huge problem was the way I send this

publication and others that I create. I spend only \$20 per year for my program. Now, the company from whom I buy this program is one of the computer giants. I found that if you only spend \$20 a year, you cannot find any help at all other than they are glad to sell you something else.

What I ended up doing was canceling my program since they don't allow you to have two of these programs at the same time. I bought something else I did not want or need. The next day, I went back and canceled the "new" program and purchased my same old program again, which meant I got a new download.

Hey, it worked.

I did call the Famous Book Dealer to make them aware of the hacking of their telephone numbers. The "public relations" person told me, after I had related what had happened to me on their phone number, "Yeah, those things happen."

Huh? I am no longer a customer of the Famous Book Dealer and won't ever be again. I didn't want anything other than for them to try and keep their phone lines secure...or, at least tell me that they cared and didn't want it to happen again.

Please folks, don't make the mistake I made. I am, I admit, somewhat gullible and believe most everything I am told...but, I'm trying to change that.

My Tom said if he could find those guys who tore up my computer, he would roll his wheelchair over their toes!

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 | |



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It is with great pleasure we announce the launch of the Society's first silver pin badges.

These exquisite items are now ready for sale (40 pounds each, plus p&p).

The pins are solid sterling silver, hand-made in Scotland, hallmarked in Edinburgh and the design inspired by the Society's seal.

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Please order your pin badge through the website online shop (www.socantscot.org/shop).

For orders of more than two pin badges, please contact the office on 0131 247 4133 or email info@socantscot.org.

Good news! The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland's autumn newsletter and 2017 - 18 Events Programme are now ready, available online in the Fellows section www.socantscot.org and in the post.



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Tickets also available in advance for the events below. Use the URL above to get the Advance Ticket Purchase Form.

DON'T MISS OUT! Friday evening, October 13th
Four Points Sheraton Ventura Harbor: Whisky Tasting 5:00 p.m. and A Scottish Evening, includes dinner and ceilidh 6:30 p.m. **Saturday evening**, October 14th
Crowne Plaza Clan Chiefs Dinner, Cocktails 6:00 p.m. | Dinner 7:00 p.m. Purchase your tickets to these special events using the **Advance Sale Order Form**.

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Unique woodcarvings unveiled on The Wallace Way

The National Wallace Monument in Stirling has unveiled eight of the collection of eleven specially created woodcarvings

as part of the transformation of the pathway on the Abbey Craig, the hill on which the famous landmark stands.

Moments in history from the ice age through to the building of the Monument itself are depicted in the sculptures, which were commissioned by Stirling District Tourism and developed with help from Stirling Council Ranger Claire Bird. Entitled 'The Wallace Way', the woodcarving trail is designed to take visitors on a journey through time as they ascend the hill that leads to the famous landmark.

Each of the carvings has been individually designed and hand carved by Iain Chalmers, based in Ross-shire, with the selection being made predominantly out of cedar wood.

Iain Chalmers said: "It was a pleasure to be involved in this project with Stirling District Tourism and Stirling Council. Each of the carvings is unique and while some proved more challenging than others, we are happy with the finished pieces. I hope that visitors will enjoy this new feature when they visit the Monument."

This new visual element is designed to enhance the visitor experience and to encourage more people to follow the nature trail, to see the carvings and learn more about Stirling's fascinating history at the same time. Many of the woodcarvings will be interactive, with benches to sit on, trains to drive, and photo opportunities for visitors.

On the path to the Monument walkers will see how important moments from Stirling's past have been interpreted, with a sculpted version of the whale which washed up on the prehistoric shoreline at the carse of Stirling, and the plane flown in Scotland's first powered

Continued on page 11



Local blogger, Jenny Eaves with her sons enjoying the new Woodcarvings on the pathway of the Abbey Craig www.monkeyandmouse.co.uk

yes

* **Yes**, it is fine to forward your edition of *Beth's Newfangled Family Tree* to friends, fellow members of your genealogical or Scottish organization or send it to anyone you think will enjoy the publication. Never any charge. Never any strings!

* **Yes**, it is wonderful if you will send along a copy of your Scottish Clan newsletter or genealogy society publication to *BNFT*. Just send to <bethscribble@aol.com> anytime you wish.

* **Yes**, it is great if you wish to submit an article - be it news, a story, a poem anything you wish to *BNFT*. Just send to <bethscribble@aol.com> anytime.

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



Chief Steven
MacTavish

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

We Are Clan MacTavish!



For information about joining us email: clanmactavishUSA@gmail.com

Wallace Monument premieres new carvings,

Continued from page 9



flight. One carving will depict some of the key tribes and invaders of Scotland who passed through Stirling, while another highlights Stirling's fantastic array of flora and fauna.

Speaking about the carvings, Hannah Lucas, Visitor Attraction Manager at The National Wallace Monument, said: "We know that visitors come to the Abbey Craig and to the Monument for so many different reasons - to discover the story of Wallace and to see his sword, to climb the famous spiral staircase to the Crown of the Monument, or to enjoy panoramic views of the landscape. These wonderful carvings now add an extra dimension to the experience of visiting this special place, and we're sure that everyone who comes here will enjoy following the trail for themselves".

Stirling Council Ranger Claire Bird added: "The success of the Stirling's Stories carvings trail along the Upper and Lower Back Walks below Stirling Castle, so close to the City Centre, made me realise that wood carvings can be a very accessible way to get across some of Stirling's amazing history to locals and visitors alike. The Abbey Craig, on which The National Wallace Monument sits, has seen so much history since it was carved out by the last glaciers that we can't help but share some of its stories too"

The National Wallace Monument

The National Wallace Monument is managed and operated by Stirling District Tourism Limited. The Monument was opened in 1869 to commemorate the life of the Scottish patriot and martyr Sir William Wallace and attracts over 115,000 visitors each year. As a registered charity, Stirling District Tourism receives no Government funding and is reliant for income from donations and



Bill Graham, President

The St. Andrews Society of Tallahassee, Florida

Please ponder the significance of the Scottish Crown Jewels, more often referred to as the *Honours of Scotland*. As you read on, permit your thinking to concurrently include the ever present regalia and symbols that are consistently used in our St. Andrews Society of Tallahassee ceremonies.

The Honours of Scotland are the crown, scepter and sword. Collectively they represent the oldest Royal Regalia in Great Britain.

The present day crown is said to have been recast from a previous one with the gold having been mined in Scotland. After the addition of more precious stones and pearls this crown was originally used by King James V.

The scepter, thought to have been made in 1494, was presented to the Scottish King by Pope Alexander VI. The scepter was remodeled and lengthened around

Continued on page 13

admission fees.

At the start of 2017 Stirling Council's Road & Land team upgraded the Abbey Craig pathway using a bound recycled material which has made it much easier to access the Monument on foot. Following the refurbishment of the pathway, Stirling District Tourism has invested £20,000 on the new woodcarvings and interpretation to encourage more walkers to use the path and help preserve the area.

In October, The National Wallace Monument will be open each day from 9.30am until 5.00pm. Visitor information is available from 01786 472140 and www.nationalwallacemonument.com

The Clan Grant Society - USA

is
Celebrating

40 *Years*

and you are invited!

To All Clan Grant Society Members...

You are cordially invited to join us for the 40th Anniversary celebration and

The Annual General Meeting of the Clan Grant Society-USA.

It will be held October 21st, beginning at 11:30, at the Grant Clan Tent
in the Stone Mountain Highland Games, Stone Mountain Park Georgia.

We will be enjoying a lunch of chicken chili and corn bread.

As part of the celebration, Howard Parsons and Dr. Phil Smith

will be leading us in a toast to:

The Rt. Hon Sir James Grant of Grant, The 6th Lord Strathspey,

Baronet of Nova Scotia, 33rd Chief of Grant.

Bring your friends, bag chairs and plan to sit a while and visit with your cousins Grant.

We will be offering door prizes and issuing our new membership cards

in addition to stickers of membership.

The Honours of Scotland, _____ _____ Continued from page 11

1536 and features St. Andrew along with the Virgin and Child on its finial.

The sword, with blade one meter long, was given to James IV by Pope Julius II in 1507. The ties to the Vatican were obviously quite strong at this point in Scottish history.

Oliver Cromwell destroyed all of the English Royal Regalia that his troops could locate shortly after ordering the execution of Charles I in 1649. One of his goals in his invasion of Scotland was to destroy the Scottish Crown Jewels as well. However, brave and thoughtful Scots prevented this destruction by careful and clandestine maneuvers.

Thanks to the reputation and diligent efforts of Sir Walter Scott the Honours of Scotland were found in 1818 after having been hidden for centuries in Edinburgh Castle.

Visitors may now view them as a regular feature while touring the castle.



An important item that is closely associated with the Honours of Scotland is the *Stone of Destiny*. John Baliol was crowned King of Scotland in 1292 and was the last to make use of this famous artifact.

Edward I of England captured the Stone of Destiny in 1296 and it remained in London for 700 hundred years. Its return was joyfully celebrated by the Scottish Parliament on November 30, 1996 the day we celebrate as St. Andrews Day.

With thanks to the *St. Andrew's Cross*, the publication of The St. Andrew's Society of Tallahassee. Visit www.saintandrewtallahassee.org for more information.

TheGenealogist adds over 1.1 Million Records to their Sussex Parish Record Collection and more...

TheGenealogist has added over 1.1 million individuals to its parish record collection covering the county of Sussex. Published in association with *The Parish Record Transcription Society*, this first tranche of records will be followed by more releases in the near future.

This new release covers individual records of: 717,000 Baptisms; 213,000 Marriages; 208,000 Burials.

The Parish Record Transcription Society (PRTSoc) has worked with *TheGenealogist* and *S&N* to publish their records online, making over 1.1 million individuals from baptism, marriage and burial records available and fully searchable:

“We are very pleased to be working with *TheGenealogist* on this major project, previously undertaken to transcribe the parish registers of West Sussex by the staff and dedicated volunteers of the *PRTSoc*. This will preserve these records for future generations and brings them into the online community,” said Peter Steward, Chairman of *PRTSoc*.

Mark Bayley, Head of Online Development at *TheGenealogist*, welcomed *PRTSoc* to the growing number of family history societies on both *TheGenealogist* and *FHS-Online* saying: “We’re delighted that *PRTSoc* chose to publish their records through *TheGenealogist* and *FHS-Online*. This release adds to the ever expanding collection of parish records on both websites. These partnerships help fund societies whilst bringing their records to a much wider audience through online publication.”

This release joins *TheGenealogist*'s Sussex collection including parish records to form a major resource for the county. Read their article here: <https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/featuredarticles/2017/new-sussex-parish-records-reveal-a-grizzly-end-646/>

If your society is interested in publishing records online, please contact Mark Bayley on 01722 717002 or see fhs-online.co.uk/about.php

Continued on page 15

After ten years work! **The Third Edition**
of *Scottish Clan and Family Encyclopaedia*
by George Way of Plean and Romilly Squire



Every person interested in their own Scottish clan or interested in Scottish history needs a copy of The Third Edition of the *Scottish Clan and Family Encyclopaedia*. Authored by George Way of Plean and Romilly Squire.

In this new and expanded version of the other two editions you'll find extended or updated academic essays - including a hitherto neglected subject: the lowland dimension.

The format is now alphabetical (not two sections); all entries have been revised and updated to early 2017.

For the very first time, every single name has a heraldic illustration by Romilly.

The book is very lavishly illustrated with photographs of the Lyon Court, clan



chiefs, et al.

Revised and updated to reflect changes in clan society since its original publication in 1994, the *Scottish Clan & Family Encyclopaedia* is the definitive single-volume reference work on the Scottish Clans as well as the lowland dimension and Romilly Squire's heraldic illustrations.

To order the *Scottish Clan and Family Encyclopaedia*, visit:
www.stkildapublications.com

Limited supply, order now!

Sussex Parish Records, _____

Continued from page 13

New Sussex Parish Records Reveal a Grizzly End

This latest release reveals stories of torture and murder at the hands of smugglers and the divisions between Catholics and Protestants in the historic county of Sussex.

One intriguing story revolves around a particularly violent gang of men who terrorised the South coast of England in the early 1740s. In these times the “Hawkhurst Gang,” known smugglers who had already successfully raided the customs house at Poole and operated all the way up to the Kent coast, would often join forces with other local gangs to smuggle in contraband.

Adopting the name from the Kent village of Hawkhurst, “The Hawkhurst Gang” were always in control and had acquired a fearsome reputation for violence even against those with whom they had united.

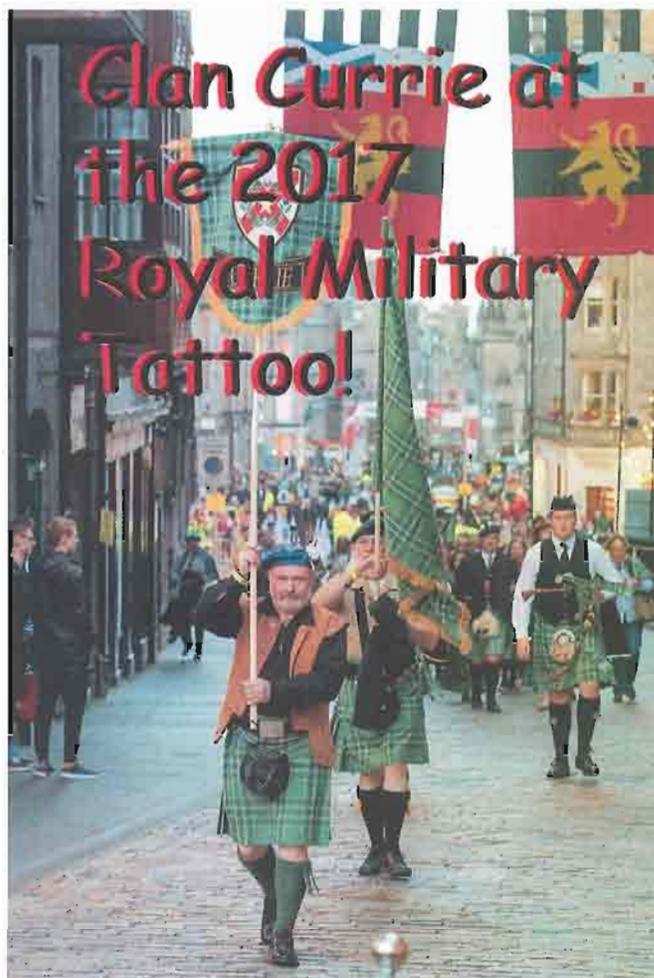
At this time Jeremiah Curtis was a member of a “Hastings Gang” that was working closely with the “Hawkhurst Gang” and Curtis already had a reputation as one of its most brutal members.



When the suspicion fell on Richard Hawkins of stealing two bags of the gang’s smuggled tea they dealt with it in a typically brutal manner. Taking the farm labourer to the the *Dog and Partridge Inn* at Slindon they interrogated him with Curtis taking the lead.

The whipping and beating that they gave him ended in Hawkins death after which they disposed of his body in the pond at Parham Park. In the notes to one of the entries in the Sussex Parish records we discover that Richard Hawkins was buried on the 22nd of April 1748 in Parham and the cause of death was that he had been ‘Murdered by smugglers and thrown into Sir Cecil Bisshopp’s pond’.

With thanks to *Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter*. Free subscriptions by visiting their website and looking for the “subscription” button.



Thanks to Bob Currie, we have some wonderful photographs of the Clan Currie at the 2017 Royal Military Tattoo in Edinburgh. Coming in the Section B of the November 2017 issue of BNFT.

The Order of the Thistle, _____

Continued from page 1

Regiment of Scotland, Scots Guards, The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada and Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. The patron saint of the Order is St Andrew.

Most British orders of chivalry cover the whole United Kingdom, but the three most exalted ones each pertain to one constituent country only. The Order of the Thistle, which pertains to Scotland, is the second-most senior in precedence. Its equivalent in England, The Most Noble Order of the Garter, is the oldest documented order of chivalry in the United Kingdom, dating to the middle fourteenth century. In 1783 an Irish equivalent, The Most Illustrious Order of St Patrick, was founded, but has now fallen dormant.



LOVE TARTAN...?

The Scottish Tartans Authority is a registered charity based in Scotland and we are the only organisation dedicated to the preservation, promotion and protection of tartan. We would love you to join us as a member and support our worthy cause...



Membership directly contributes to ensuring that Scotland's iconic cloth is maintained for future generations of Scots, both home and abroad. Exclusive benefits include a regular newsletter, access to our Tartan and Clan experts as well as lots more.

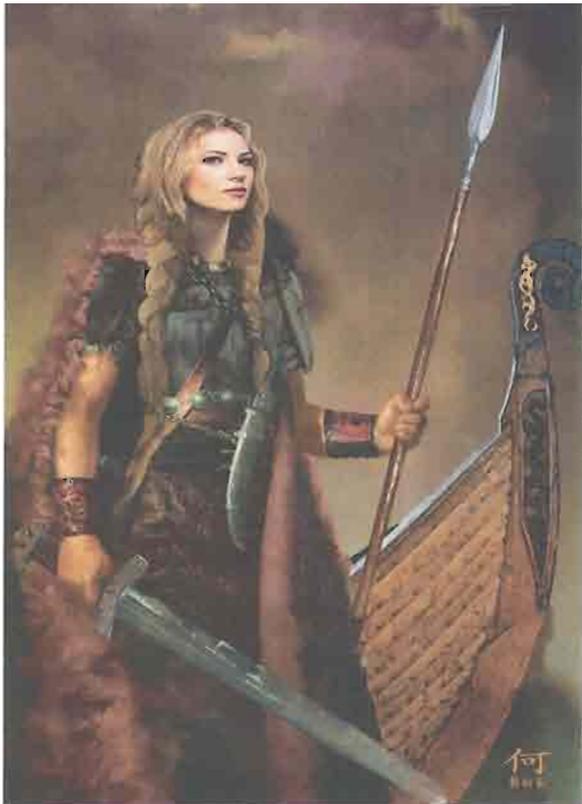
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DNA analysis shows that the elaborate grave of what appears to be a Viking officer was a real-life shieldmaiden

Ben Panko,
Smithsonian Magazine

Who Were The Vikings?

The Vikings, or "Vikingr" in Old Norse, is the collective term used to describe the Scandinavian explorers, traders and warriors who raided, traded, explored and settled across large parts of Europe, Asia and the North Atlantic islands from around the eighth to the middle of the eleventh century.

Viking Beliefs

The Vikings had their own belief system, Norse mythology, prior to Christianisation. Norse mythology centered on gods such as Odin, Thor, Loki and Frey. Dying in battle was the most prestigious way to depart life. This would guarantee you a seat in Valhalla, an enormous hall ruled by Odin, where fantastic banquets were held each night and preparations made to help Odin in the apocalyptic battles preceding Ragnarok (the end of the world). By the tenth and eleventh centuries, most if not all of the Norsemen had converted to Christianity, but held on to many of their pagan beliefs until late into the medieval period.

More than a thousand years ago, a Viking woman was laid to rest with the full honors of a mighty warrior, including weapons, armor and two horses. But when researchers discovered her remains in 1880s, the weaponry led them to assume this mighty she was a he.

Now, over 130 years later, DNA tests have shown that this high-ranking Viking warrior was actually a woman.

"Though some Viking women buried with weapons are known, a female warrior of this importance has never been determined and Viking scholars have been reluctant to acknowledge the agency of women with weapons," the researcher writes in the study published in the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*.

Much of the history of women warriors has been passed as legend or myth—mere stories of so-called "shieldmaidens," or women who fought alongside the men?

The warrior Brynhildr, for example, appears in several epic poems and sagas, and was later memorialized in Richard Wagner's "Ring Cycle" operas. Yet many believe that these myths are rooted in some truth. One example is the long-raging debate around the existence of the legendary Amazon women of Greek mythology, who have risen to fame with the Wonder Woman comics and movie.

This latest study of the Viking warrior, found in a grave in the Swedish town of Birka, is the first strong evidence that these legendary high-ranking women warriors actually existed,

Continued on page 21

THE CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY

'S Rioghal Ma Dhream! Royal is my Race!

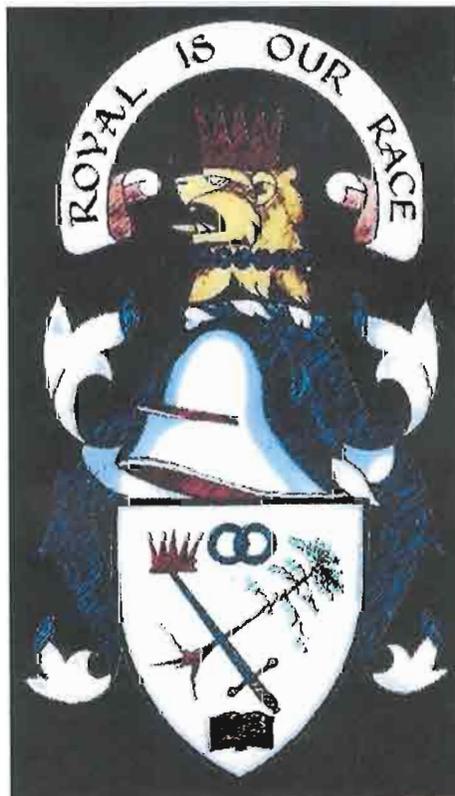
Fàilte! The Clan Gregor Society is a growing organisation with membership throughout the world. It's most active objectives are to extend the links of kinship and friendship between MacGregors, wherever they may be, and to provide a focal point for all members of the Clan and interested visitors who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

Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor

7th Baronet of Lanrick and Balquidder

24th Chief of Clan Gregor

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has
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New England,
Pacific
Northwest,
Western
United States
and
Southeast
Chapters



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LALLANS

The Journal o Scots Airs an Letters

A lovely letter for October from George Watt and The Journal o Scots Airs an Letters...

(I find if I read the Scots out loud, I can pretty well figure out what it says. It turns out, it is great fun!)

Weel I missed the last issue o Beth's brawlie papers, I howp ye aa missed me!

Neist month I'm awa tae Shetland for their annual Accordion an Fiddle Festival, the 30th ane at that.

Noo I jalouse mony o ye play the fiddle an near as mony play the accordion. But gin ye enjoy Scots music, ye'll enjoy luggin intil it be it on fiddle, accordion, bag-pipes, pianie or tun whistle.

Gin yer like me, ye will think Scottish music be it reels, jigs, Strathspeys, Gaelic waltz, border ballads or slaw airs juist aboot the best music thare is. I play ae wee bittie on the fiddle masel, but the less sayed anent that the better mibbie.

But Shetland, noo that is something diffrent aathegither. Nae airt in the wurld is as kenspeckled for its music than Shetland.

The Shetland fowk juist luv tae play an thay'll play aa nicht lang.

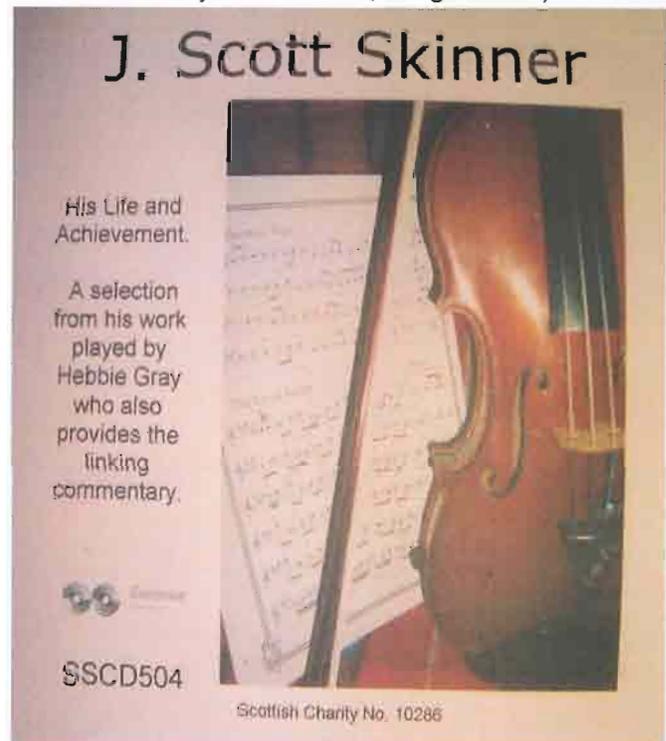
The celebration, for it is ae complete celebration o music, sterts wi ae jam session in ane o the local bours afore the festival is proper unnerwey. The musicians, baith guests an locals juist cannae wait until the neist dey!

So yon first nicht is ae chance for thaim tae wark thair fingers ae wee bittie an for the public tae wark thair lugs intil it.

The festival is centred in Lerwick the main toun o Shetland but thay hae concerts in village haas aa roun aboot wi busses laid on tae tak fowk ootaboot.

Efter the concerts aabiddie, the Musicians an the audiences, aa return tae the Isleburgh Centre whaur ae mammoth jam sessions gangs on weel efter the wee sma hours is past. Thare a several ruims in the centre an ilk

Continued on page 21



J. Scott Skinner

His Life and Achievement.

A selection from his work played by Hebbie Gray who also provides the linking commentary.

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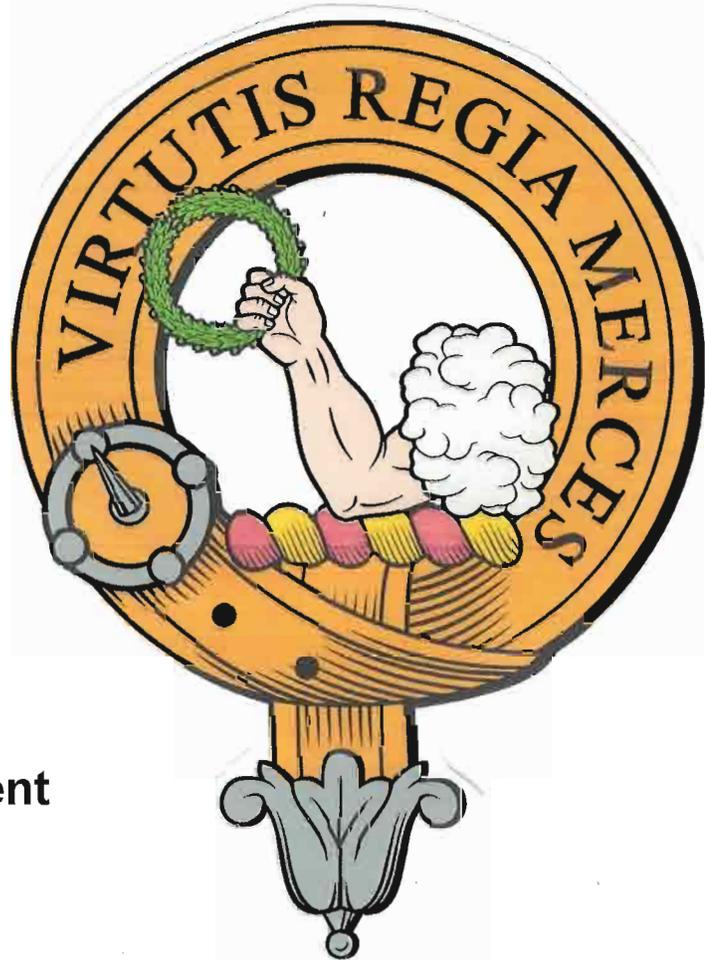
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ane is taein ower for music.

Gin the ruims are aa fu syne thay'll play on the stairs. Ye'll see somewan playin fiddle, syne the next time ye see thaim thay'll be on pianie an later accordion. Thay swap instruments, thay swap ruims, thay swap tunes, thay dinnae swap thair drinks thou!

Oh an did I meintion thare is dauncin ilka nicht anaa?

Ma pairtner an me an oor freins we tak ruims in the hostel richt across the street juist sae we can fa intil oor cots efter it's ower an nae hae tae rise until laet.

I get up tae mak the purridge, for fan I'm aroon naewan else gets tae mak the purridge for I'm fell concernt that it maun be juist richt!

Fed an watered, it's ower the road for mair music. Fiddle music is occurs popular aa ower Scotland.

Efter the battle o Culloden fan the playin o the bagpipes wis ae hangin offence, the clan pipers tuik tae the fiddle tae kep the tunes o the Heilans alive. Mony o the tunes syne trevelled wi thaim durin the Heilan Clearances an are still popular tae this dey in Canada an Americae.

Div ye ken the wee sang, 'does your horse carry double uncle Joe uncle Joe?' yon is ae Scots tune an diddlin awa wi silly wurd is ae concept haunded down frae the Scots.

I see anent Beth's pages adverts tae announce ae fiddler I muckle admire Alasdair Fraser wi Natalie Hass on Cello. This combination wis the typical duo for Scottish Country Dauncin for weel ower twa hunner year.

Neill Gow (born 1727), ane o the great nems on the past wuid play fiddle wi his brither on cello. Anither faamous nem is Scots Skinner (1843-1927) fa played the Carnegie Ha in New York.

We in The Scots Language Society hae ae CD on Scotsoun o Hebbie Grey, anither kenspeckled an muckle admired fiddler playin music by Scots Skinner wi introductions tae the tunes wi anecdotal stories anent Scots Skinner hissel. Noo he wis ae richt character!

Onwey, gin ye are ae fan o Scots music an ye are planning ae trip tae Scotland, think o gangin tae Shetland first week o October, for thair annual Accordion an Fiddle Festival, ye'll nae be sorry.



writes Louise Nordstrom for The Local. "What we have studied was not a Valkyrie from the sagas but a real life military leader, that happens to be a woman," archaeologist Charlotte Hedenstierna-Jonson, lead author of the study, says in a statement.

The grave in question contains the trappings of a Viking officer, including a full set of gaming pieces that were used to strategize battle tactics, writes bioarchaeologist Kristina Killgrove for Forbes. The warrior was around 30 years old at death, and relatively tall for the time, standing at five and a half feet. Because of its burial setting, archaeologists had simply long assumed that the skeleton found in this grave was from a man, but Anna Kjellström noticed that the skeleton seemed to have more physical characteristics of a female rather than a male skeleton.

To test the sex of the individual, researchers extracted DNA of the canine tooth and upper arm. Analysis of this genetic material showed that the individual had X chromosomes and lacked a Y chromosome, which indicates the remains belonged to a woman. Analysis of isotopes found in the bones also suggests that the woman likely lived an itinerant lifestyle before settling down in Birka later in life.

More than 3,000 Viking graves are known to exist at Birka, with many yet to be excavated and studied, Killgrove writes. This latest discovery suggests that archaeologists should not let preconceived notions of gender and modern tradition cloud their analysis of future finds.

"Similar associations of women buried with weapons have been dismissed, arguing that the armaments could have been heirlooms, carriers of symbolic meaning or grave goods reflecting the status and role of the family rather than the individual," the researchers write in the study, noting that remains from male individuals with such elaborate burials are often not questioned. "The results call for caution against generalizations regarding social orders in past societies," they write.

Read more: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/high-ranking-viking-warrior-was-woman-180964831/#3dgvuUm0iVcyj10U.99>

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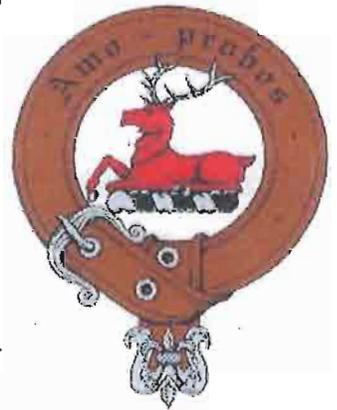
Contact Tom Hodges:
sijepuis@bellsouth.net

Allied Families and Septs of

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Clan Blair Society

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



www.clanblair.org

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



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



The Emerald Isle

Our first serialized feature!

Part I



Dr. Pete Hylton, Ed.D.

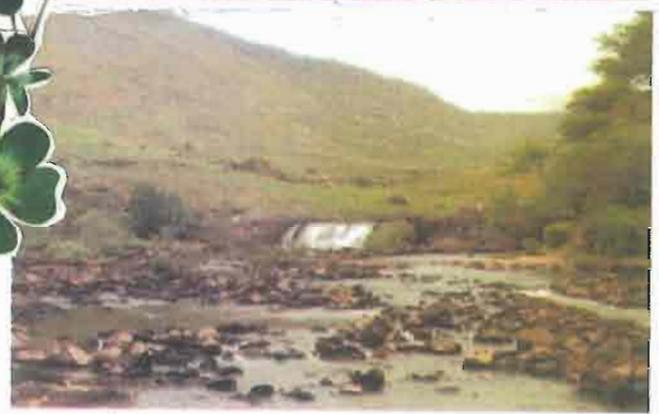
Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology

Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland

Fulbright Scholar



There is clearly good reason that Ireland is called the Emerald Isle. There are more shades of green than I have ever seen. Daughter Aeron and the University of Southern Indiana Chamber Choir were in Ireland for a week, competing in the Mayo International Choral Competition. With Ireland only a short hop over the water, I had to go see Aeron, and the choir, compete. I stayed in the wee town of Newport, which is built on two levels, and therefore has two separate old stone bridges to cross the river.



As you get closer to the coast, the mountains pop up, and it feels a bit more like entering the Scottish Highlands as you approach Glencoe.



The students asked me how Scotland differed from Ireland, and I had wondered myself. The central part of the island seems to be much like the Scottish Borders:.....very green, with rolling hills and twisting roads. And there are lots of lakes (lochs in Scotland), and streams.



There are also a few Neolithic standing stones and tombs, like this one, which is a bit different from the ones I usually show you from Caithness.

Continued on page 25



Elliot Clan Society, USA Membership Information 2014

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

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

www.elliotclan.com

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

Contact Patricia Tennyson Bell

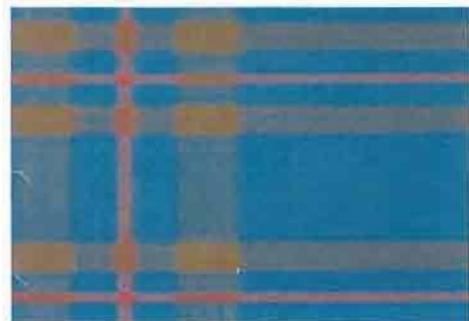
Email: dublincollen@sbcglobal.net or write

2984 Siskiyou Boulevard

Medford, OR 97504

(Fortiter Et Recte)

Boldly and Rightly



Part I, The Emerald Isle, *Continued from page 23*

And the roads are similar too.



USI's first concert was in the town of Westport, at the Church of the Holy Trinity (built 1868). They performed a number of their typical songs, but then closed with a trio of Irish tunes, two in Gaelic. The locals were amazed at how well they did those numbers, and gave them a standing ovation.

Between concerts, I visited Croagh Patrick, one of the most holy Catholic sites in Ireland. Saint Patrick traveled this area in the year 441 and supposedly meditated for 40 days and nights on the top of the mountain in the background before driving the snakes from Ireland.



The second USI concert was at Ballintubber Abbey. Saint Patrick baptized locals in this area in 441 and it became a place of worship. Then in 1216 the abbey was built. In the intervening 800 years, the Abbey has been in continuous use for worship, even after the Cromwell era when Catholics were persecuted and the roof was torn from the structure. For over 200 years worship continued without a roof, in all kinds of weather and with grass growing in the sanctuary. The structure did not have heat until 10 years ago.



The abbey grounds have some ancient, yet elaborate, headstones.

The Emerald Isle, Part III *will be continued in Section B of the November BNFT*

The Emerald Isle, Part II *will be continued in Section A of the November BNFT*

Yeah, yeah...however, Section B is always first to appear and then Section A - so, there will be a bit of confusion ONCE...

after that, in the Archives, it will always be correct.



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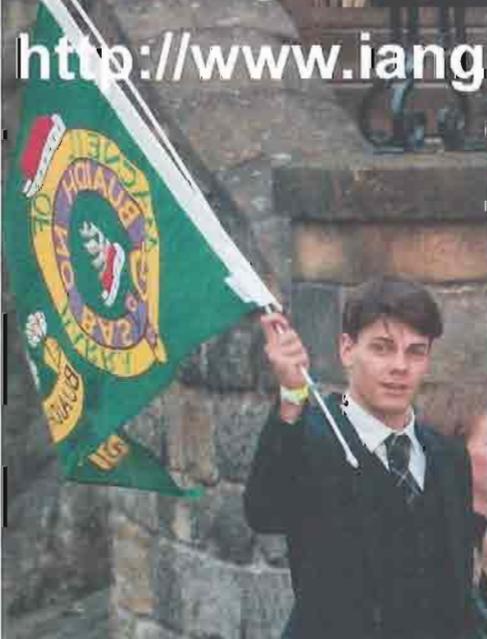
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More photos on page 31

Clan Rattray



Clan Rattray Society

29th Clan Rattray Chief
Lachlann Rattray
Blairgowrie, Scotland

Visit our clan at:
clanrattray.com

Our Motto: "Super sidera votum" which means "My desires extend beyond the stars."
The name "Rattray" is taken from the barony of Rattray in Perthshire, Scotland.

Contact our Canadian Representative:

Carole Rattray Nickels
230 Clarke Road, Unit 140
London, Ontario N5W 5P8
Call 519-455-9076
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Various spellings: Rateree, Raterree, Rater, Rathtreff, Ratie, Ratiree, Ratra, Rattray, Ratteree, Ratterf, Ratterey, Ratri, Rattie, Rattray, Rattar, Rattaree, Rattarree, Rattaray, Rattarey, Rattarie, Rattary, Ratter, Ratteray, Ratterree, Rattery, Rattie, Rattley, Rattory, Rattray, Rattre, Rattree, Rattrey, Rattrie, Ratrix, Rattroy, Rattray, Rattray, Rhetory, Rothrea, Rottref, Rothria, Rotref, Rotry, Rottert, Rottrey, Rottry, Ruttery.

Septs: Brewlands, Dalrulzion, Drimmie, Lude, Persie, Rannagulzion.



*Clans
Marjoribanks,
Macneil,
Macrae
at the
2017
Royal
Military
Tattoo in
Edinburgh*

Thank you to
**Ian Georgeson
Photography**
in Edinburgh!





ClanKeith-USA.org

Official website of The Clan Keith Society USA, Inc

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

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

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

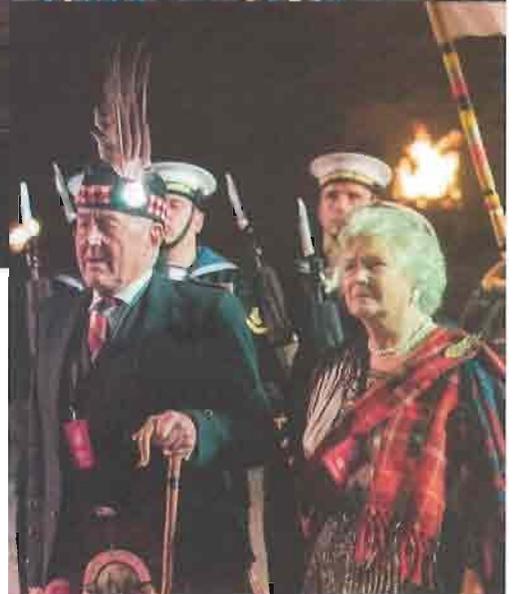


Dunnottar Castle, stronghold of the Keiths (near Stonehaven)

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



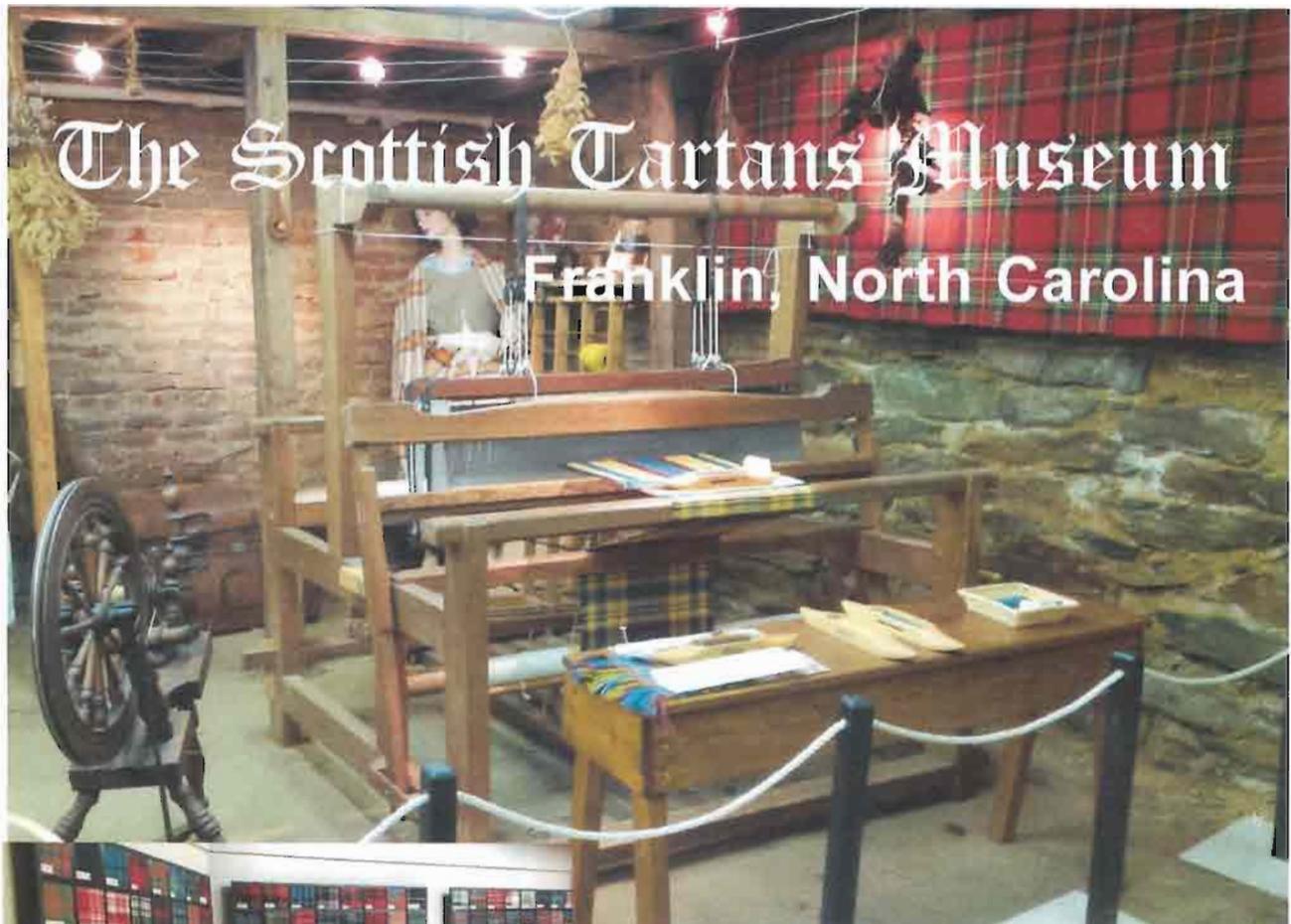
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The Scottish Tartans Museum & Heritage Center is located in downtown Franklin, North Carolina.

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.

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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

