

# THE COCHRANE HERITAGE

Volume 1 Number 2

October 1989



CULROSS ABBEY HOUSE

## FROM THE PRESIDENTS PIPES

This is the final newsletter of the year. A lot has been accomplished but a lot more needs to be done. I'm still looking for commissioners along the East Coast and Central States. The only requirement is a short article like the Ray Cochran-Buckland one for the newsletter and that you attend, at least, one game. I'm not asking much.

I've gotten positive feedback from 99% of the membership. I thank you for your support. One critic pointed out my need for a proof reader. Margaret Hartley-Sydnor has graciously volunteered to proofread the newsletter.

I feel very positive about our direction. The newsletter can only get better as more members become involved. Anyone wishing to contribute to the newsletter is encouraged to do so.

I made one major blunder in the last newsletter. I sent the newsletter to 40 members plus 180 interested parties and failed to include Linda's apartment number. I regret this mistake and so I will send all those listed this newsletter. But this will be the last newsletter for non-paying members.

Since you won't hear from me until January I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone the warmest and merriest "Nollaig" and a Happy "Hogmanay".

Yours Aye

Michael

# COMMISSIONERS

These members have accepted the positions of Commissioner! They are:

## SOUTHWEST

Raymond Cochran-Buckland  
The Plaza Suite 2-127  
1885 Diamond Street  
San Diego, CA 92109

## NORTHWEST

Jerry Cochran, M.D.  
P.O. Box 18061  
Spokane, WA 99208

## MIDDLE ATLANTIC

Steven R. Cochran  
8311 Morningside Drive  
Manassas, VA 22111

Hearty congratulations to all of you!!

## 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Baltimore

The Clan Cochran(e) was represented at the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the Battle of Baltimore on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September at Fort McHenry which was witnessed by a young lawyer named Francis Scott Key. Key's account of the battle later became the "Star Spangled Banner".

Governor William Donald Schaffer, Mayor Kurt Schmoke and other dignitaries attended the festivities as well as descendants of Francis Scott Key, General Smith and other American heroes of the battle. Your president, as one of the invited guests attended in full Highland Regalia.

## 1989 San Diego Scottish Highland Games

The 1989 San Diego Scottish Highland Games was an especially good one. For the first time the Games were held at a site in San Marcos (in the North County of San Diego). It was an idyllic setting with rolling grassland, a stream and pond replete with ducks and swans scattered trees and, with the generous sprinkling of Clan tents and concessions.

Clan Cochran(e) was, as always, represented. We enjoyed visits from old friends and new. Of the new we met Earl and Eleanor Cochran, visiting from Cleveland, Ohio; Fletcher P. Cothran from Carlsbad, CA; Jean and Paul Marshall from Bonita, CA; and George Cochran of Laguna Hills, CA (though George had been there on previous occasions). Bob and Carol Yuremko helped Ray and Tara Cochran-Buckland with the tent, as they have done in past years, and also joined with them in marching in the Parade of Clans at the opening ceremony.

The Clan tent presented a multitude of items of interest to Cochrans and, with its shining weaponry flanking the tables, drew much interest even from other clans. We look forward to next years San Diego Games.

Yours Aye,

Ray Cochran-Buckland

## THE ALEXANDRIA SCOTTISH GAMES

The Clan Cochran(e) Society was represented this year at the Alexandria Scottish Games at the Episcopal High School outside Alexandria, Virginia on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July.

The temperatures, as usual, hovered around 100 but this has never affected the annual huge turnout. Our tent was strategically placed between the rowdy Frasers 79<sup>th</sup> Highlanders (a re-enactment group) and the St. Andrews Society of Baltimore. Special thanks to Mr. Wally Sellers, the President of the Games, for his help in giving us maximum exposure.

A few old members stopped by and expressed surprise that we were being represented so far north! [Ed. Note: The Mason/Dixon Line is the northern boundary of the State of Maryland]. It was a successful day in sunny Virginia.

The next big event in Alexandria will be the traditional Christmas Walk through Old Town. Local members are encouraged to attend.

## ON THE COVER



The Culross Abbey House is located 7 miles west of Dunfermline and overlooks the Firth of Forth. It was built by Edward Bruce in 1608 and acquired by William Cochrane when he married Lady Mary Bruce. William Cochrane was the grandson of the First Earl and father of the Eighth Earl (The Eighth Earl having succeeded his second cousin once removed to the title). Culross Abbey was sold in 1793 by the Ninth Earl after losing the family fortune.

The house has gone through many alterations. It was originally a two-story building. A third story was added but later removed. At one time it was described as a block of three stories with a tower at each end. The doorway has six windows on each side and there are thirteen windows on the second floor. It was a dilapidated mansion when the Tenth Earl was growing up and a roofless ruin later in his life. It was restored early in this century.

## HURRICANE HUGO AFFECTS WILLIAMSBURG GAMES!

The annual Williamsburg Scottish Festival scheduled for the third weekend of September, was moved to a local Holiday Inn because of Hurricane Hugo! Anyone who lives along the Atlantic Coast can testify to the unpredictable nature of hurricanes. Hugo's path was expected to move up the Eastern Seaboard and arrive in the Williamsburg area on Saturday. As a precaution, the Games were moved inside. As fate would have it Hugo took the longshot course and headed towards Ohio. Those in the Middle Atlantic region were spared what could have been a rough time.

Clan Cochran(e) arrived early and set a tent up on the lawn in front of the Inn with about twenty other tents. This proved to be a good decision because the area inside was noisy, crowded, and stuffy. We endured a slight drizzle for about an hour during the day. In spite of some initial confusion, a good time was had by all.

## COCHRANE TARTAN

There is a limited amount of Tartan available thru our cousin Clan Cochrane in Australia. It is priced at \$28 Australia per metre. (Note: This was \$85.00 a yard in US).

For more information contact:

Sandra Florence  
P.O. Box 502  
Paddington, Sydney, Australia 2021

CONTRIBUTED BY CLAN COCHRANE IN AUSTRALIA

## William and Mary



The illustrations herewith are from the cover of the family record of William and Mary Cochrane's descendants who settled initially in the Illawarra District of N.S.W. Among these descendants; Trevor Cochrane of Candela and his niece, Sandra (Cochrane) Florance are foundation members of our Clan. Sandra (our first secretary) is also secretary of the Army Wives Association. Trevor is a retired (if any farmer can ever be retired) dairy farmer and resides at "Kawangie".

Trevor has written an interesting and imaginative account of the emigration of Eliza Cochrane and her husband, John Keys, mentioning, later alia "man-eating Kangaroos" and of falling off the earth "down under". If everyone in his or her retirement would write down the family history how much easier it would be for those coming after them. How many of us had the opportunity to quiz elderly relatives and regretted that they had not done so! Somehow, as the years roll by "family" suddenly becomes important!

William and Mary had thirteen children only two of them "died young" as the genealogists say. The remaining eleven married and appear to have had "issue", some in abundance! Other than Cochranes, of course, on the distaff side are names such as: *Keys, Martin, Flower, Berkeley, Chegwidden, Osborne, Irvin, Rankin, Ball, and Beatson*. To these can be added at least forty more names through which the "crimson thread" of Cochrane blood still flows! To the people, then, who produced this Cochrane family record, Congratulations!

In the forward to this magnificent record Richard Reid gives an excellent summary of the conditions which forced, in the 1850's some one hundred and one thousand Irish emigrants to head for Australia and New Zealand. In January 1847 GEORGE DAWSON, a wealthy County Londonderry landowner wrote to a friend..."I do not exaggerate when I tell you that from the amount I open my hull door in the morning until dark I have a crown of women and children

crying out to save them from starvation....I have been obliged to turn my kitchen into a bakery and soup shop to enable me to feed the miserable children that cannot be sent empty away. So great is their distress that they actually faint on getting food into their stomachs.”

Famine also hit Scotland and Scots in their thousands emigrated to Canada, U.S.A., South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand.

Congratulations are in order, surely for the person who named this booklet, *WILLIAM AND MARY!*

(Trevor presented a copy of “*William and Mary*” to the Clan. Our President has it should anyone wish to examine it. Ed.

“WHO ARE THE SCOTS??”  
And  
“WHENCE CAME THE COCHRANES??”

Dr. Ian Grimble, author of *The Sea Wolf* was asked by BBC Scotland to run a long series called, “Who are the Scots?” This he did and it was a great success and repeated many time. So it is with great temerity that the writer is attempting here to embrace this subject in the space of a few paragraphs. It was prompted by a desire to find the origin of the Cochranes in this maze.



When one looks at the map above it is not surprising to find that the “Name” Cochrane (originating in the Renfrew area) comes not from Gaelic, or from the Norse, but from the ancient “Brit”. COCH RHEN = RED BROOK. The family name, then, gives no clue as to the nationality of us Cochranes.

The original Scots came from free SCOTIA or Northern Ireland. They were a Celtic race and they brought with them their Irish Gaelic language. Usually an incoming invader is gradually

absorbed by the "locals": this was not the case with the Gaels. These "Scots" gradually absorbed the Picts totally and even the Scandinavians who invaded from the north and the west. Even the South-west marked "Britons" were absorbed to a marked degree while the Angles area retained the English. There was an 'in-put" of English and Norse into the Gaelic Language and this accounts for the difference between today's Irish and Scottish Gaelic. The modern "Scots" tongue is English with a marked Scottish accent. There has been a resurgence in the learning of Gaelic, especially in the Scottish Islands and the children are being taught Gaelic in the island schools.

The writer is yet to find the Cochranes listed among the Highland Clans but they are listed with the "Scottish Clans of Old". So we must accept that we are of Scandinavian origin of Celtic if not of Gaelic origin.