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*American Clan Lockhart Society*

*The only official Clan Lockhart organization as  
recognized by Chief Ranald Lockhart of the Lee*

# THE TALLISMAN



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**Must see...**

Braidwood Castle, also known as Hallbar Tower, is a 16th-century tower house. The castle is owned by the Lockharts of Lee. When traveling to Scotland, a stay is a must!

"It is gratifying to realize that this ancient Lockhart stronghold has been carefully preserved for future generations to enjoy."

Ranald Lockhart, Chief of Clan Lockhart

Any members wanting to stay in the castle should contact Ranald directly to arrange a discount.

Contact: [dawn@leeandcarnwathestates.co.uk](mailto:dawn@leeandcarnwathestates.co.uk)

# April 6: National Tartan Day

Jeff Lockhart [A#194]

*April 6 is National Tartan Day, a celebration of Scottish heritage and the cultural contributions of Scottish and Scottish-diaspora figures of history. The event originated in Nova Scotia, Canada, in 1987. It spread to other communities of the Scottish diaspora, such as Australia, the United States and New Zealand, and to Scotland itself, in the 1990s to 2000s. Tartan Day is held on April 6, the date on which the Declaration of Arbroath was signed in 1320. It is celebrated in Canada (since 1987, officially and nationally since 2010), the United States (since 1997, with increasing recognition in 1998, 2005, and 2008 as National Tartan Day), and Argentina (unofficially from 2006).*

## Canada

About 15.1% or 4.7 million Canadians claim Scottish descent. Tartan Day (*French: Journée du Tartan*) in Canada, first held in Nova Scotia in 1987, originated with a proposal by Bill Crowell and Jean MacKeracher-Watson at a meeting of the Federation of Scottish Clans in Nova Scotia on March 9, 1986.

Canada declared National Tartan Day in October 2010, the first official national event being held in 2011. In the national capital, Ottawa, Ontario, an annual Gathering of the Clans takes place each year, usually on April 6 or the Sunday nearest to it, on Parliament Hill at noon with pipes, drums, and dancing hosted by the Sons of Scotland Pipe Band, Canada's oldest civilian pipe band. Canada's official tartan, the Maple Leaf tartan, was designed in 1964 and became an official national symbol in March 2011 ahead of Tartan Day.

In 2015, Minister of Canadian Heritage

Shelly Glover issued a statement in support of National Tartan Day and the Maple Leaf tartan, and tied the event to celebration that year of the 200th anniversary of the birth of the first prime minister of Canada, Sir John A. Macdonald (born in Scotland), and the 50th anniversary of the current flag of Canada, among other events. Glover wrote of "the contributions of the Scots and their descendants to the social fabric of our country" and "the historical links between Scotland and Canada".

## Scotland

Angus, a region that includes Arbroath, established the first Tartan Day festival in Scotland on April 6, 2004, and has since joined other regional councils in

attempting to develop its potential as a global celebration. The Angus event, like that in New York, has developed into a full Tartan Week, and has included activities such as exhibitions of local arts and crafts, a farmer's market, local food vendors and formal dinners, a gathering of clans, a golf tournament, archery



The 'Tynninghame' copy of the Declaration from Arbroath 1320, in the National Archives of Scotland

competition, literary and storytelling events, medieval reenactments, traditional piping and other music, dance (competitive and participatory), regional history exhibitions and presentations, and craft workshops.

From 2004 through 2013, the city of Aberdeen also organized a Tartan Day, though in 2016 it changed into a charity walkathon fundraiser named the Kiltwalk (run by a registered charitable organization), which has since spread to Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Dundee in Scotland (held at different dates throughout the year so as not to conflict), and, for a one-off event, to New York City in the US.

Since 2017, the Scottish Government's official Scotland.org and VisitScotland.org portal sites have sometimes re-branded Tartan Day/Week as "Scotland Week" for marketing the events to native Scots, though "Tartan Day/Week" has also remained in use in such materials.

Since 2016, the 6 April date has increasingly been promoted instead as Declaration Day, since the Declaration of Arbroath is seen as having more national and historical significance than tartans (primarily associated with the Scottish Highlands), and 2020 marked the 700th anniversary of the declaration. In 2016, the town of Arbroath, the Angus Council, the VisitScotland tourism board, and Historic Environment Scotland formed the body Arbroath 2020, in association with the Friends of Arbroath Abbey organisation, for the construction of a Declaration Square in front of Arbroath Abbey for the anniversary; Arbroath 2020's chairman Norman Atkinson appears to have coined the name

"Declaration Day" in 2016, as an explicit "rebrand" of the date. The name continues to be used especially for events at Arbroath, where the celebration has expanded beyond its original scope, and now includes a mile-long parade among other activities, promoted as "a non-political event ... that blends history, culture, and community spirit".

## **United States**

There are an estimated 25 million people in the US who are of Scottish descent. Observing various Tartan Day activities in Canada and in the US at the state and county level, a March 8–10, 1996, meeting of Scottish-heritage organization leaders chaired by John H. Napier III, which included Duncan MacDonald of the Caledonian Foundation, and Neil Fraser of the Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada, among others, proposed nationalizing the idea in the US, to unanimous approval of the attendees. After promotional advertisements were placed in heritage and genealogy publications including *The Highlander*, *Scottish Life*, and *Family Tree*, the first (unofficial) Tartan Day in the United States observed at the national level was on April 6, 1997. Wanting to make the holiday official, the Scottish Coalition USA (comprising the American-Scottish Foundation, the Association of Scottish Games and Festivals, the Council of Scottish Clans & Associations, Living Legacy of Scotland, the Scottish-American Military Society, and Scottish Heritage USA, and at that time also including the now-defunct Tartan Educational and Cultural Association) held a second Sarasota meeting in 1997 to more formally establish a National Tartan Day.

## 2008 Proclamation by President George W Bush

*Americans of Scottish descent have made enduring contributions to our Nation with their hard work, faith, and values. On National Tartan Day, we celebrate the spirit and character of Scottish Americans and recognize their many contributions to our culture and our way of life.*

*Scotland and the United States have long shared ties of family and friendship, and many of our country's most cherished customs and ideals first grew to maturity on Scotland's soil. The Declaration of Arbroath, the Scottish Declaration of Independence signed in 1320, embodied the Scots' strong dedication to liberty, and the Scots brought that tradition of freedom with them to the New World. Sons and daughters of many Scottish clans were among the first immigrants to settle in America, and their determination and optimism helped build our Nation's character. Several of our Founding Fathers were of Scottish descent, as have been many Presidents and Justices of the United States Supreme Court. Many Scottish Americans, such as Andrew Carnegie, were great philanthropists, founding and supporting numerous scientific, educational, and civic institutions. From the evocative sounds of the bagpipes to the great sport of golf, the Scots have also left an indelible mark on American culture.*

*National Tartan Day is an opportunity to celebrate all Americans who claim Scottish ancestry, and we are especially grateful for the service in our Armed Forces of Scottish Americans who have answered the call to protect our Nation.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 6, 2008, as National Tartan Day. I call upon all Americans to observe this day by celebrating the continued friendship between the people of Scotland and the United States and by recognizing the contributions of Scottish Americans to our Nation.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.*

*GEORGE W. BUSH*

In 1998, the efforts of the coalition and the Caledonian Foundation (led then by JoAnne Phipps), with the legislative sponsorship of Senator Trent Lott, resulted in United States Senate Resolution No. 155 (introduced March 6, 1998) to adopt April 6 as National Tartan Day. The resolution passed March 20, 1998, "to recognize the outstanding achievements and contributions made by Scottish Americans to the United States"; it also referred to the predominance of Scots among the Founding Fathers of the United States and claimed that the American Declaration of Independence was "modelled on" the Scottish Declaration of Arbroath. The now quasi-official National Tartan Day was held annually thereafter.

This led in turn, through the advocacy of the National Capital Tartan Committee (led by James Morrison), to unanimous adoption of US House of Representatives Resolution 41 passing on March 9, 2005, in favor of a US National Tartan Day on April 6, and mirroring most of the wording of the Senate resolution. Finally, President George W. Bush signed a presidential proclamation on April 4, 2008, of a fully official US National Tartan Day observance on April 6 each year.



# Genealogy Search Engines

*Zane Walls [L#136], Clan Genealogist*

Greetings from the Northern Neck of VA, where my family and I have called home since 2024. I have not been as active with the ACLS as I have in the past and I hope that once we get settled I can become more active within the organization. It's been awhile since I last wrote an article for the Talisman, and I hope that you all like the article and its content. The purpose of this article is to highlight those websites that I've used for my genealogy research as well as those websites I've bought DNA kits from and uploaded my DNA data to, to increase the reach of my DNA data. First off let's start with my genealogy research and what websites I've used and the cost.

These websites are ones that I've used to do my own genealogy research, as well as research for the ACLS, and the cost varies with each genealogy company. Same goes for those DNA companies that are listed above, where I paid for a DNA kit or uploaded my DNA data to other sites. I hope this information serves you well in your own genealogy research, and remember, I will always be available if you get stuck or need help.

Genealogy Company	Website	Account Cost	Service Cost
Ancestry	<a href="https://www.ancestry.com/">https://www.ancestry.com/</a>	Free	Yes
23 & Me	<a href="https://www.23andme.com/">https://www.23andme.com/</a>	Free	Yes
My Heritage	<a href="https://www.myheritage.com/">https://www.myheritage.com/</a>	Free	Yes
Family Search	<a href="https://www.familysearch.org/">https://www.familysearch.org/</a>	Free	Free
Find a Grave	<a href="https://www.findagrave.com/">https://www.findagrave.com/</a>	Free	Free
Wikitree	<a href="https://www.wikitree.com/">https://www.wikitree.com/</a>	Free	Free
Geni	<a href="https://www.geni.com/">https://www.geni.com/</a>	Free	Free
Genealogy	<a href="https://www.genealogy.com/">https://www.genealogy.com/</a>	NA	Free
Find My Past	<a href="https://www.findmypast.com/">https://www.findmypast.com/</a>	Free	Yes

DNA Company	Website	Kit Cost
AncestryDNA	<a href="https://www.ancestry.com/">https://www.ancestry.com/</a>	Yes
Family Tree DNA	<a href="https://www.familytreedna.com/">https://www.familytreedna.com/</a>	Yes
My Heritage	<a href="https://www.myheritage.com/">https://www.myheritage.com/</a>	Yes
23 & Me	<a href="https://www.23andme.com/">https://www.23andme.com/</a>	Yes
GEDmatch	<a href="https://www.gedmatch.com/">https://www.gedmatch.com/</a>	NA
Genomelink	<a href="https://www.genomelink.io/">https://www.genomelink.io/</a>	NA

Happy Hunting,

Zane Walls



# Happy Birthday!

January	February	March
Jessica Daniel [A#103]	Kenneth Clem [A#231]	Sara DeVere [L#4]
Rick Daniel [A#103]	Marilyn Grabell [A#168]	James Dodd [L#9]
Caitlin Dohmeier [A#203]	Michelle Lockhart [L#206]	Cheryl Lockhard [A#233]
Kimberly Lockhart Frignon [A#241]	Rosemary Lockhart [L#138]	Jeff Lockhart [A#235]
Paul Frignon [A#241]	Sara Shepherd [A#236]	Kirk Lockhart [L#124]
James Greenwood [A#168]	Kimberly VanHeste [L#100]	Michael Lockhart [L#185]
Jay Howell [A#190]	Sharon Vaughn [A#125]	Susan Lockhart [L#2]
Meredith Kotzer [A#251]		Kristin Travis Lockhart [A#218]
Joshua Labay [A#189]		Madalyn Riley [A#148]
Diane Lockerd [A#214]		Misha Tinney [L#224]
Burns Lockhart [A#121]		Justin Wilks [L#210]
Mary Rosaire Lockhart [L#104]		
Michael Lockhart [A#185]		
Thomas Monsive [A#193]		
Diane Morton [A#151]		
Diane Novak [A#245]		
Robert Strickler [A#182]		
Dr. Bryan Wildenthal [L#25]		
Madalyn (Mandy) Williams [A#148]		

## Membership

New Annual	Member Renewal	New Lifetime
Meredith Kotzer [A#251]	Julie Deaton [A#239]	
	Jeff Lockhart [A#235]	
	Linda Mehl [A#176]	
	Debra Monsive [A#193]	
	Christopher Wade [A#167]	



# ACLS Store

Colleen Lockhart [L#075]

Welcome Clan Members!

ACLS Store Items are pictured below. The cost of shipping will be invoiced.

013 Pewter hat badge \$24

014 Pewter kilt pin \$24

024 Polo Shirt, white \$30, special order with Crest in youth thru XXXL.

042 Red Lockhart Crest t-shirt adult small to XL \$15, adult XXL and XXXL \$18.

044 Tan Lockhart Crest t-shirt adult small to XL \$15, adult XXL and XXXL \$18.

Clan-lockhart.org, the official site in Scotland, has several publications including Seven Centuries, To My Pocket, Genealogical Chart, and others.

To purchase the ACLS challenge coin, please contact William Lockhart directly at blockhart46@gmail.com.

Contact Colleen Lockhart for questions at colleenlockhart52@gmail.com



Pewter Hat Badge \$24



Pewter Hilt Pin \$24



Lockhart Clan Challenge Coin (Contact Bill Lockhart)



Red or Tan T-shirts  
adult small — adult XL \$15  
adult XXL — adult XXXL \$18



Polo Shirt with logo - \$30. Special order

# Final Thoughts

Jeff Lockhart [A#194]



The journey to completing your genealogy is never finished. There is always one more ancestor, census record, or letter uncovered. DNA matches expand your options even more with the chance to actually contact someone who might be a relative. At times I'm overwhelmed with the number of "rabbit holes" I can go down during a search. I am notoriously un-focused, just ask my wife. I'm sure that I have undiagnosed ADHD. I've always been triggered by bright, shiny objects.

I'm trying to stay on one path. I've watched videos where people say to create one specific question that you want an answer to: *when was John Smith born? According to the 1850 US Federal Census he was 10 years old and lived in Walnut Creek, Pennsylvania.* That's a straight-forward question, isn't it? But I get lost when I look at those leaves in Ancestry that give me so many different "hints". I spend hours just clicking and looking and scrolling around to complete that one task. And, maybe I get it done, but usually I've collected more information for other people.

I've been looking into using AI to help me get answers. I found a lady who seems very knowledgeable about how to use it. Her name is Denyse Allen ([https://www.youtube.com/@denyse\\_allen](https://www.youtube.com/@denyse_allen)) and she also has a newsletter and website called [Chronicle Makers](#). She makes you aware of the pitfalls of AI and how to word your questions just right. I'm sure there are others. I've also been watching some videos from the RootsTech conference where all the genealogy nerds and companies gather for 4 days of learning.

Let me know if you use AI in your searching. I am interested to know how it's working or not working for you. Do you have any tips or cautions we can share with the rest of our members?

