



Beth's Newfangled FAMILY TREE

AN INTERNET ALL ETHNICITIES GENEALOGICAL PUBLICATION

THE HOMETOWN PUBLICATION FOR THE WORLDWIDE SCOTTISH COMMUNITY

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Clan MacAlpine now has a new Commander! Michael T. McAlpine commissioned for 10 years

**Cuimhnich
Bàs Ailpein!**

The MacAlpine Clan is now an officially recognized armigerous Scottish clan after a nearly two decades -long effort by the Clan MacAlpine Society for recognition by the Court of the Lord Lyon in Edinburgh. On April 19, 2017 the Lord Lyon commissioned Michael T. McAlpin of Alpharetta, Georgia,



Commander Michael T. McAlpin receiving commission from Rev. Dr. Joe Morrow, Lord Lyon King of Arms for Scotland.

Commander of the McAlpine Clan (official commission available on the Clan MacAlpine Society website – www.macalpineclan.com).

The position of Commander is an ad interim ten year appointment. At the end of the appointment, the family will need to organize a Derbfine to nominate the next Clan Commander.

The Clan MacAlpine Society was formed in the


year 2000 through the efforts of the first Society president, Kenneth J. McAlpine of California. The Society has been active since its founding, supporting a quarterly newsletter, a family Annual General Meeting, and an ongoing effort to support clan recognition. If you are a MacAlpine or descendent thereof, please consider joining and supporting the clan society.

The House of MacAlpine met at Abbotsford House in Melrose, Roxburghshire in Scotland on September 10, 2016, for a historic family convention and Derbfine. The family nominated Michael T. McAlpin as Commander and made im-

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Laughter is good for you!



A photograph of a man with dark hair, wearing a grey t-shirt, holding a ginger cat. The cat is lying in his arms, looking towards the camera with its mouth open, showing its teeth. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**Richard couldn't
afford a bagpipe,
but that
didn't stop a
man with a
dream.**

**Watch for Richard & Catpipe in
Concert*
appearing near you soon!**

* APRIL FOOL!

HOLYWOOD, SCOTLAND

Garden of Cosmic Speculation

A 30-acre garden inspired by the principles of modern physics.



With many thanks to **Atlas Obscura**. Free subscriptions at atlasobscura.com

Snail-shaped grass mounds, twisting DNA helix sculptures, and undulating waves of rhododendrons make up the Garden of Cosmic Speculation, a 30-acre garden whose design is guided by the fundamentals of modern physics.

The garden was designed by architecture theorist Charles Jencks and his late wife, Maggie Keswick, an expert on Chinese gardens. Located at their private residence, Portrack House, near Dumfries, Scotland, the design, according to Jencks, brings out the basic elements that underlie the cosmos.

From 1989 until Keswick's death in 1995, Jencks and his wife met with horticulturists and scientists in order to design a landscape that would bridge the worlds of art, nature and science. Perhaps viewed as an unconventional approach to landscaping, the garden features a dizzying display of geometric fractals

that all illuminate—or at least are inspired by—concepts of black holes, string theory, and the “Big Bang.”

The garden features five major areas connected by a number of artificial lakes, bridges, and other architectural works, including large white staircases and terraces that zigzag down a green hillside, representing the story of the creation of the universe.

Jencks continued work on the garden through 2007. Today, it is open to the public one day a year through the Scotland's Gardens Scheme and helps to raise money for Maggie's Centres, a cancer care foundation named after Jenck's late wife.

Know Before You Go

Hollywood is 1½ miles off A76, five miles north of Dumfries. Tickets are limited to 1,500 visitors on one day per year. Tickets are available through the

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OH, CANADA!



<https://electriccanadian.com>





Garden of Cosmic Speculation,

Continued from page 3

Scotland Gardens website. See to the left in this column. (So, it will be readable.)

2019 Day of Viewing for the public is listed below.

Sunday 5 May, 11am - 5pm (2019)

Admission £10.00, children free.

· Maggies Centre 60%.

Other details: There is limited parking in the fields beside Portrack, so admission is via pre-paid ticket only.

Please book your tickets online from 1 February at Eventbrite.

There will also be limited tickets available in person at the Midsteeple in Dumfries for local people with no internet access.

Please check ticket availability as we expect this event to sell out.

Early entry before 11am will not be permitted and last entry is 4.30pm.

We regret that there is no wheelchair access.

Dogs must be kept on a lead at all times.

Teas will be provided throughout the afternoon by The Usual Place, our local enterprise partner.

The Upper Nithsdale Youth Pipe Band will perform near the tea area at 1.30pm and 3pm (weather permitting).

Please note that the garden is not open to the public at any other time during the year.

Further information is on the Scotland's Gardens Scheme website.



New MacAlpin Commander,

Continued from page 1

portant decisions for the future of the clan. After a 500+ year hiatus, the family is now an officially recognized Scottish clan.

The new Commander has written: The Clan MacAlpine Society was founded nearly twenty years ago with the objectives of identifying and unifying our diaspora, preserving our Scottish heritage, gaining recognition from the Scottish Court of Lord Lyon, and ultimately having a Chief of the Name and Arms of MacAlpine, and a Crest.

It was a great honor to be at the Lyon Court in Edinburgh to receive the Commission from the Reverend Dr. Joe Morrow, Lord Lyon King of Arms for Scotland.

Accompanying me were Society President Dale McAlpine from California, Ian McAlpine and his lovely wife Margaret from Midlothian, and our advisor Dr. Bruce Durie.

Lyon made a short presentation of the Commission in his office, and then we all retired for dinner and conversation.

With Commission in hand, we are well on our way to our long-term objectives. We have nearly 3,000 members around the world, and we have recognition from the Court.

Now is a good time to reflect on what we have accomplished, but also to take measure of what our vision is for the future. To assist with that, I have asked a few folks to help with identifying a few areas that may help preserve our heritage by looking at the potential of offering small scholarships for piping, and dancing.

It might also be an opportunity to give back, to think of some effort on a worthy cause in Scotland, perhaps some signage at a location important to the McAlpines, or a donation to the Kilmartin Museum.

We will also begin contacting the websites and vendors that need to correct their content to a more accurate description of the McAlpines.

If you are interested in getting involved with one of these projects, please let me know.

Paraphrasing the Commission, it says the interim Commander should rally the McAlpines. I am committed to that worthy effort.

Yours Aye,

Michael T McAlpin

<https://scotlandsgardens.org/portrack-the-garden-of-cosmic-speculation/?f=%7B%22t%22%3A%5B%22all%22%5D%7D&garden=Garden%20of%20Cosmic%20Speculation>

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,
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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



Lord Lyon King of Arms David Sellar



William David Hamilton Sellar, Lord Lyon King of Arms. Born: 27 February 1941 in Glasgow. Died: 26 January 2019 in Edinburgh, aged 78.

David Sellar was the gently urbane academic and

author who, as Lord Lyon, became Scotland's greatest officer of state. Clad in tabard of office, he cut a majestic figure: tall, impassive, pale eyes above a fine beard. If appearances matter – and in the post of Lord Lyon they surely do – then the holder of this ancient office brought credit and dignity to one of our nation's most historic roles.

As Lord Lyon, he held reins like no other in the

world, with personal charge of heraldry, and as a judge on genealogical questions relating to family representation and pedigrees.

Through his post in jurisprudence at Edinburgh University, he brought to the office the force of the law. But his lifelong study, his “passion” as he termed it, was the study of genealogy – and thus he was possibly the first genealogist appointed to the office.

William David Hamilton Sellar, MVO, MA, LLB, FRHistS, FSAScot, was hailed as the most influential Scottish legal historian of his generation.

Born and raised in Glasgow, educated at Kelvinside Academy and Fettes College, he read history at Oxford and law at Edinburgh, and after qualifying as a solicitor, worked briefly at the Scottish Land Court, before joining the law faculty at Edinburgh University.

That was in 1969, and he remained there for his entire academic career. Keenly interested in promotion of Scots law, history and culture, he founded the Centre for Legal History in 1992, now one of the leaders of its kind anywhere in the world, serving

Continued on page 9

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Scottish legal history as an academic discipline. In his research and in a prodigious published output, he raised questions around the nature and identity of Scots law, querying how far back the history of it can be traced.

He demonstrated how our distinctive common law acted as a pillar of national identity from the wars of independence of King Robert Bruce onwards, and he examined whether this operated the same way across the Highlands as the Lowlands.

He examined how much Scots law contained influences of Celtic, Roman, canon, and English law, and queried what effect the Reformation had.

His answers formed an essential framework for the interpretation of Scottish legal history, emphasising both the antiquity and the continuity of our legal system, as well as aiding the establishment of an innovative course in Scots Law and the Western Legal Tradition at Edinburgh.

His deep knowledge of sources written in Latin, Scots and Gaelic shone through when he wrote his magisterial paper on the origins of the Lordship of the Isles, the title to which now held by Prince Charles.

Mr Sellar wrote on the origins of a clutch of Highland families, including Campbells, MacDonalds, MacDougalls, MacLeods, Lamonts, MacNeills and Nicolsons.

His output also included a treatise on Galloway genealogies, besides writings on the history of various branches of Scots law including marriage, divorce, incest, homicide and unjust enrichment.

Appointed Lord Lyon in March 2008 in succession to Robin Blair, Lyon Sellar knew that he was 36th in succession to Lyon Henry Greve of 1399.

His keener eye soon fell upon the genealogical blanks, that he was 37th in succession to an unnamed Lyon inaugurated in the rank of knight by King Robert Bruce at Arbroath Abbey in 1318.

In a major lecture to the Heraldry Society of Scotland a decade ago, he not only demonstrated his expertise in Scots law, genealogy, clan history, and heraldry, but via the research of Dr Adrian Ailes, managed to put a name to a Lyon of 1290, one Jack Caupeny.

His research made clear however that such a pedigree is only a beginning, for his office descends from the Seannachie of Celtic times, someone who may have participated in the inauguration of kings back at least to King Kenneth MacAlpin in 843.

He was asked of the difference between the Land Court

and Lyon Court: "Each is a court of extraordinary jurisdiction. One deals with crofters, and the other with chiefs".

He once turned up for a meeting of Edinburgh University Heraldry Society at which the distinguished heraldist - Sir Iain Moncrieffe of that ilk

was due to speak. But only Sir Iain, Mr Sellar and the society president turned up. So all three adjourned to a pub, where, he reported, "We spent a better evening than the meeting might have been".

Mr Sellar was O'Donnell Lecturer in Celtic Studies at Edinburgh in 1985, Stair Lecturer in 1997 and Rhind Lecturer in 2000. He has been a member of the Ancient Monuments Board for Scotland, Vice-President of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, literary director of the Stair Society, chairman of the council of the Scottish History Society, and chairman of the conference of Scottish Mediaevalists.

He has served on the council of the Scottish Genealogy Society, and of the Heraldry Society of Scotland. His formal entry into heraldic practice came with his appointment as Bute Pursuivant of Arms in 2001. Lyon Sellar possessed his own fine sense of belonging. Great-grandson of William Sellar born in 1837 in Mortlach, Banffshire, and descendant of "400 years of blacksmiths" in the neighbouring parish of Botriphnie, His own arms recall his ancestral origins by the inclusion of a blacksmith's hammer.

Married and a keen "walker and island hopper", Mr Sellar once confessed "I can't recall a time when I wasn't interested in genealogy", recalling "I must have been very young - possibly six or seven - when I first started pestering great-aunts and elderly relatives".

In adulthood, this led to researches into consanguinity, from which emerged the fact that in pre-Reformation Scotland, the prohibited degrees of marriage included descendants of the same great-great-grandparent: in simple terms, even third cousins could not marry.

Mr Sellar died after a short illness, and is survived by his wife Susan; step-son Andrew, and sons Duncan, Niall and Gavin and five grandchildren.





CLAN GRAHAM SOCIETY



SEPTS

Airth, Allrdes, Allardas, Allardice, Allardyce, Allerdyce, Aiyrdes, Ardes, Auchinloch, Ballewen, Blair, Bonar, Bannar, Bonner, Bonteln, Bontline, Bontyne, Bounteno, Buchlyrie, Buchlyry, Bullman, Buntain, Buntin, Bunlin, Buntine, Bunting, Buntin, Buntin, Buntyn, Buntyn, Bunting, Conyers, Crampshee, Cronsy, Cransio, Drumaguhassle, Drunagaassy, Drumaguhassle, Duchray, Duchwray, Dugalston, Durchray, Esbank, Fintraie, Fintray, Fintrie, Glennie, Glenny, Graine, Graeme, Grahame, Grahym, Grim, Grime, Grimes, Grimin, Hadden, Haddon, Haddin, Holdone, Holden, Hastie, Haldine, Hasty, Hosiy, Howden, Howe, Howie, Kilpatrick, Linga, MacCribon, MacGibbon, MacGilvern, MacGilvernock, MacGilvernoel, MacGribon, MacGrime, MacGrimen, MacIvern, MacIvernock, MacKibben, MacKibbin, MacKibbins, MacPiol, MacPioll, MacPolts, MacRibon, MacRigh, MacRis, MacRiss, MacShile, MacShille, MacShillie, Moharg, Monteith, Monteith, Monzie, Orchille, Pitcorian, Pioll, Pyall, Pye, Pyall, Reddock, Reddock, Rednock, Riddick, Riddoch, Riddock, Serjeant, Sirowan, Sterling, Strowan, Strowen

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Plockton Debates Roaming Cows

Plockton, a stunning National Trust for Scotland conservation village on a sheltered bay overlooking Loch Carron in the Highlands, is subject to common grazing laws that allow farmers to let their animals roam freely in town. For the last fifteen years an agreement has kept the local cows away, but it is due to expire and not all farmers want to renew it.

Charlie MacRae, former community council chairman argues that there is too much traffic to have cows in town, that they present health issues, and they eat the flowers in the town's distinctive window boxes. "Not only that, there is now very little grazing left in Plockton as much of the land has been built on or fenced off".

But Mary Jane Campbell, the present council chair, said she can see both sides of the debate and hopes a compromise can be met. If there is no agreement, as many as forty-six cows could be let loose in the village.

With thanks to *The Signal*, publication of the North Pacific Region Clan Donald USA.

Your Clan is Calling

We need tent conveners, helpers and people in the background. We are an all-volunteer organization; without help, it doesn't get done.

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Important!

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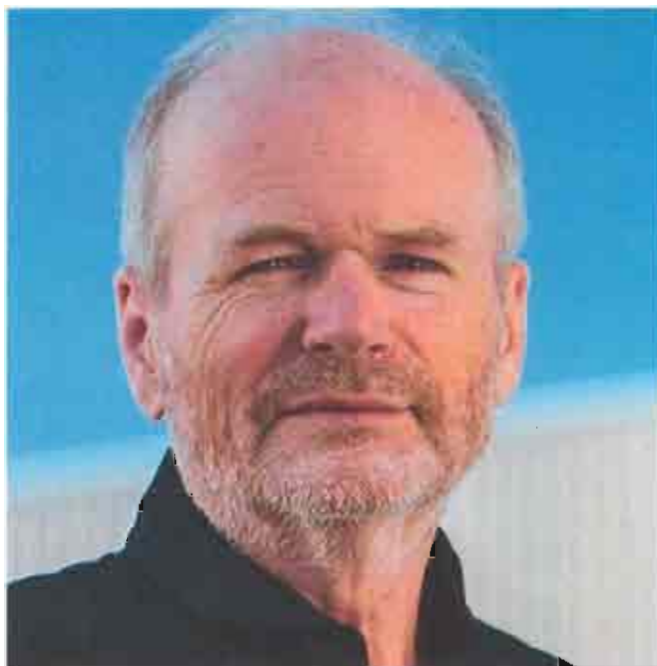
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Virgin Galactic pushed Unity rocket plane faster and higher and piloted by a Scot!



Chief pilot, Scotsman, Dave Mackay is the first born Scot, from Helmsdale, Sutherland, to travel to space!

The flight climbed to 89.9 km (55.85 miles) and traveled at Mach 3, (3 times the speed of sound). Mackay, and co-pilot, American, Mike Masucci, took the vehicle to almost 90km in altitude above California's Mojave Desert before gliding back down to Earth.

Mackay and Dave Masucci, will both be awarded their commercial astronaut wings by the US Federal Aviation Authority because of this flight.

"It was thrilling, yet smooth and nicely controlled throughout, with a view at the top, of the Earth from space, which exceeded all our expectations," he said after landing back at Mojave airport.

Friday's mission followed the usual flight procedures.

Unity was carried aloft by the *WhiteKnightTwo* aircraft, before being released to ignite its rocket motor and climb high over the desert.

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.



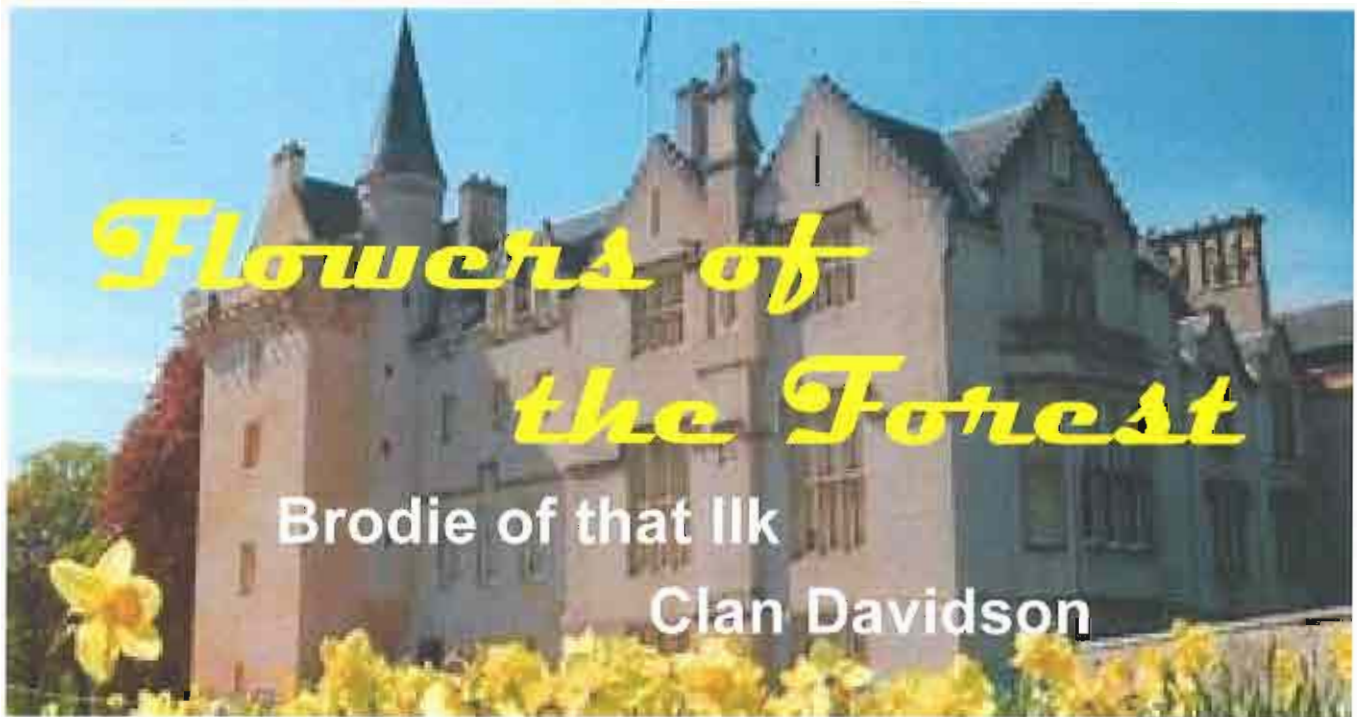
"O'n D'thainig thu."

Remember the men from whom you have come.

The Clan Macneil President: Kenneth McNeil,
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- | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| * Macneil | * Mcniel | * Niell | * McGougan |
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| * 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 | |





Ninian Brodie, the Scottish chief who split his aristocratic clan when he sold their castle to a conservation group, has died. He was 90.

Brodie died March 3 at a nursing home in Elgin, Scotland, said Fiona Dingwall, property manager at Brodie Castle, which is now owned by the National Trust.

He was chief of Clan Brodie and 25th laird, a Scottish dignitary title, descended from a Scottish nobleman who was granted lands in the Elgin area by King Malcolm IV in the 12th century.

Born in Brodie Castle near Inverness in eastern Scotland, Brodie inherited the title after his two older brothers died. Brodie's formal Scottish title was Brodie of that Ilk.

The Brodie family _ whose motto was "Unite" _ lived at Brodie for almost eight centuries until the 25th laird sold the crumbling castle and more than 170 acres in 1978 to the National Trust for Scotland for \$208,000. He retained a small apartment on the estate.

Last year three of his grandchildren, claiming the property was theirs, unsuccessfully petitioned the Scottish courts to have the sale overturned.

Educated at the prestigious Eton College and later at the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art, Brodie worked for Scotland's Perth Repertory Theatre. In 1939, he married the Welsh actress, Helena Budgeon.

After World War II, Brodie, who served in the Royal Artillery, returned home to help his recently widowed mother run the estate until her death.

Brodie, who continued acting, was known locally for reciting risqué limericks and breeding daffodils, as his father had.

Worried that he lacked the resources to keep the dilapidated castle open to the public, he decided to sell it. After restoration, the castle reopened in 1980.

Brodie is survived by his son Alastair, who becomes the 26th clan chief, and his daughter Juliet. Funeral details were not immediately available.

Clan Davidson reports that **Rebecca Elizabeth "Becca" Beavers Dean**, 56, of Magnolia, Texas, passed away on Aug. 23, 2010 at her residence following a long courageous battle with cancer.

Rebecca was born Sept. 2, 1953 in Bonham, Texas, the daughter of James Ellis Beavers and Mary Elizabeth Shinpaugh Beavers.

She was a 1972 graduate of Bonham High School and received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas.

Rebecca married Greg Dean, April 5, 1986 at

Continued on page 25

THE CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY

'S Rìoghal 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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Military College Preparatory Schools and your family genealogy

Bryan L. Mulcahy, MLS

Periodically we receive queries from patrons seeking information and records from military college preparatory schools or academies. For those not familiar with these institutions, conducting a basic Internet search using the term “Military College Prep Schools” will bring up a host of websites and specific school links containing information on the history of the school, current status, alumni, etc. This is applicable even if the school has been closed, as is the case with the one I attended briefly in the 1960s, Miami Military Academy.

Military schools of this nature began to appear in the aftermath of the Civil War and were established throughout the country. Each academy had its own history in terms of development, but they were especially prominent from the early 1920s through the late 1960s.

The fallout from Vietnam caused many to close permanently in the 1970s, but a significant number are still in operation.

Until the 1970s, admission to most academies or schools was limited to boys between the ages of 11-17 or grades 6-12.

The intent was to provide an environment where they would develop leadership skills, patriotism, independence, intellectualism, and the desire to pursue a military career.

Academies developed their curriculum through the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corp. (JROTC) whose mission was to instill in students values of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility and a sense of accomplishment.

The goal was to help groom a higher intellectual level of potential servicemen and officers for the

nation’s military and/or to serve in civilian government.

Options for locating records and other information depend on the institution and its guidelines for access. If the institution is still in operation, contact the Office of the Registrar. Due to privacy concerns, many private school records are not accessible to the public; however, if you can demonstrate that one or more of the following situations apply, you may be able to increase your chances of overcoming this privacy barrier:

- That the subject of your inquiry is deceased (provide death info with inquiry)
- That you have a family connection with your subject (describe connection)
- That your inquiry is a legitimate genealogical research project or activity (provide membership affiliation or certification with a genealogical/historical organization)

ship affiliation or certification with a genealogical/historical organization)

If the institution has closed, locating information can be challenging but not impossible. The following options have proven to be successful:

1. Virtually all academies/schools no longer operating, such as Miami Military Academy, have well-established alumni associations that have a proven track record for being very helpful.

2. Since most of these schools were under the jurisdiction of the United States military, the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has some surviving records and information.

3. The State Department of Education set standards and licensed the schools to operate.

4. Most schools were accredited and affiliated with other educational organizations that may have

Continued on page 19



The Clan Skene Association, Inc.

The Clan Skene Association, Inc., invites membership from SKENE and septs CARISON, CARNEY/ C A R N I E , CURRIEHILL, DYAS, DYCE, DYER, HALL, H A L Y A R D / H A L L Y A R D , MacGAILLARD, RENNIE & SKAINS.

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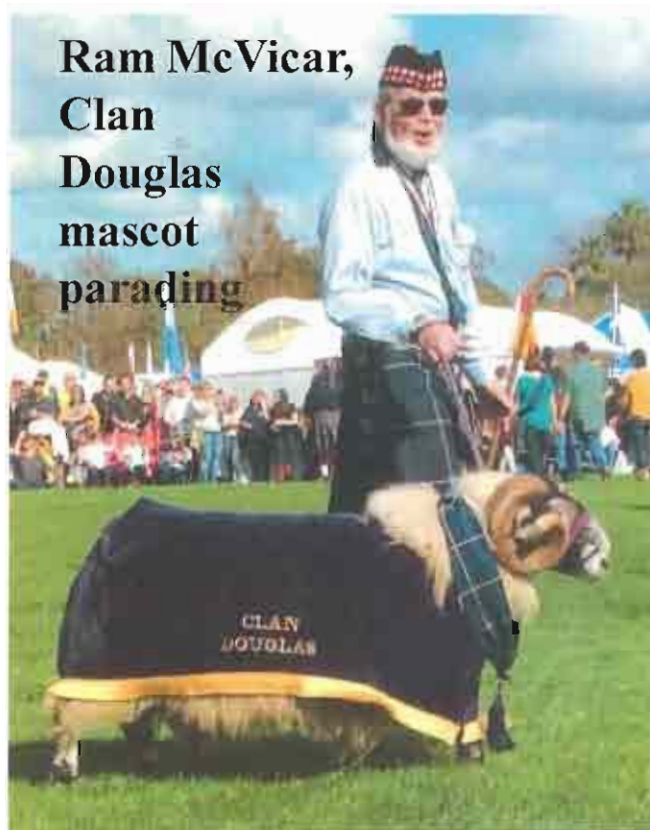
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Life Member Stuart Ballantyne of Craigmalloch Farms with McVicar

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Genealogy assistance now available in Naples, Florida



Bryan Mulcahy, who writes about genealogy for *BNFT* from the library in Ft. Myers, writes: Here is updated information concerning patrons obtaining assistance at the Naples, Florida, LDS Family History Center, which has been closed for the past year.

Ms. Kaaren Linton, Family History Consultant and a professional genealogist associated with the LDS will be providing assistance by appointment at their facility. The following information can be shared with all interested parties. Patrons may contact Ms. Linton via telephone or email but email would be preferable: Telephone Number (239) 261-1754. E-Mail: flalinton@gmail.com.

Until the Naples Family History Center officially reopens, Ms. Linton will be available by appointment on Wednesday nights from 6pm to 8:30pm; and on Saturdays from 10am-2pm. The address of the Naples Family History Center is 4935 23rd Court SW, Naples, Florida 34116.

Bryan L. Mulcahy, continued from page 17

potentially useful information or research advice. Examples would include the Florida Council of Independent Schools; Southern Association of Independent Schools; National Association of Independent Schools; and Association of Military Colleges and Schools.

5. Clues also may be found in old family records, letters, souvenirs, obituaries, tombstone inscriptions, and local histories.

Bryan L. Mulcahy, Fort Myers Regional Library
bmulcahy@leegov.com



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The Highland schools are of more recent institution, and arise from the beneficial effects already experienced from the parish schools. By the 4th George I. chap. 6, it is enacted, "That of the moneys arising from the sale of the Scottish estates, forfeited in the rebellion of 1715, 2000/. sterling shall be converted into a capital stock, the interest of which shall be laid out in erecting and maintaining schools in the Highlands."

The charity schools established by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge are, in the next degree, entitled to our consideration. This association derived its origin from the public spirit of a few private gentlemen in Edinburgh, who, in the beginning of the last century, formed themselves into "A Society for the Reformation of Manners," principally in the Highlands and Hebrides, on account of their remote situation, their total want of schools, the small number of Protestant clergy in the country, the immense extent of parishes, the little intercourse between them and their ministry (who are separated from them by vast mountainous tracts, mountains, arms of the sea, and rivers often impassable), by their language (a dialect of the ancient Celtic, unintelligible to the inhabitants of the Low countries of Scotland), the prevalence of popery in many districts, and the influence of clanship. All these circumstances induced them to erect and endow schools, provided with well qualified teachers, in as many districts of the Highlands as possible, for the instruction of youth in the first principles of religion and literature.

Their funds were at first small, but private contributions soon swelled the scanty stream into a noble current; and the subscribers were erected into a body corporate by Queen Ann, in 1709 under the title they now bear; some time afterwards they obtained from the crown an enlargement of their powers, that they

might add to their primary objects the cultivation of the most necessary branches of industry; in consequence of which the women in the remote Highlands, who used to be employed, as is frequently the case in uncivilized countries, in the masculine labours of the field, were engaged in sewing, spinning, knitting stockings, and other occupations more appropriate to the sex.

By liberal contributions, and by the great disinterestedness and discretion of all parties concerned, the funds of this society are in a flourishing condition, though still unequal to the objects of its application, which are continually increasing; the promoters of it have however the happiness of reflecting that they afford every year the elementary branches of education to nearly 16,000 children.

The schools of the society are annually visited by two ministers of every presbytery within whose bounds they are stationed: and at



these visitations a report is written and transmitted to the society of the number of the scholars, the branches they are taught, and of their proficiency; also of the character and conduct of the teacher, and of the nature of the accommodations furnished to him, in compliance with the rules of the society: and until such report is received at the office of the society, the salary of the teacher is not paid.

This society has caused to be translated the Scriptures both of the Old and New Testament, as well as a variety of pious and useful treatises, into the Gaelic language, and by means of their schoolmasters have circulated them through the Highlands and islands.

The Highlanders, it is well known, are very proud of literary distinction; and their ambition to

Continued on page 23



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...



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A wedding for us all to celebrate!

Paul and Ann (McNutt) Arnett
were married February 15, 2019
and are on to new adventures in Kansas!



Scottish Education 1807, continued from page 21

teach others, after they have been taught themselves, is very great. Hence the society have upon their lists more candidates than they can appoint. The expenses of this noble institution are conducted with the greatest economy and integrity.

Besides these established schools, the lower classes of people in Scotland, where the parishes are large, often combine together, and form private schools of their own.

So convinced are the poor people of Scotland of the advantages of education, that they will submit to almost any privation to procure it for their children, in doing

which they have to encounter the expense of clothing and feeding them.

At the charity schools no fees are paid. The benefits derived from these schools to the rural Muse of Scotland are too well known to be enumerated.

In opposition to Dr. Johnson's remark, that the schools are deserted in the winter on account of the scarcity of food, it is a well-known fact that the schools are much more frequented in that season than in summer, when the children of those who are fit for, and are required in domestic services are most wanted.

The winter, moreover, is not penurious of food in the Hebrides, as the natives are too careful not to provide for that gloomy season of the year.

I shall close my account of these great intellec-



tual sources with the following singular remark made upon them by a Scotchman: A lady of rank, who had a Highlandēr in her service, whom she employed as her hair-dresser, one morning as he was styling her hair, asked him how many traditional poems concerning Fingal still remained amongst his country-

men; to which he replied, "When any stranger entered a Highland cottage, the first question always was from the family to the guest, "Know you any thing of Fingal, or Ossian, or Oscar?"

If he did, he was called upon to recite what he knew; if he did not, they recited it to him; and upon the

lady asking how they could treasure up in their memories so many poems, he said, "Oh, madam before we had so many schools, we had long memories."

As another mode of diffusing knowledge in the Highlands, I must not omit to mention, that, a short time before I arrived at Inverness, a weekly newspaper had been established, with every prospect of success, by a very respectable bookseller, Mr. John Young, which considering the improvements that have been made in the Highlands in agriculture, in external and internal commerce/ and the general condition of the people, is like to be of considerable public advantage, as well as a source of private amusement, by opening new communications of intelligence. It is rather singular that this should have been the first public print in these parts.



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.

Have You Heard?

About the Anglo-Scottish Border

Issue Seventy Two

January/February 2019



Hello and whit fettle (how are you)? We are rapidly approaching the end of February 2019 and almost at the end of Gilnockie Towers first winter season.

It's been relatively busy for the dark days of

Flowers of the Forest, *continued from page 15*

the First Presbyterian Church in Bonham.

She worked for the Missouri Pacific Railroad and the Union Pacific Railroad in Houston, Texas, and Omaha, Nebraska, for 10 years.

She later returned to Sam Houston University to receive her teacher's certification.

Rebecca was a gifted educator and taught in Conroe ISD and Montgomery ISD where she had to resign in May of 2010 because of her health. She was a member of the George Blakey Chapter of the DAR in Bonham. Rebecca enjoyed reading, canning, crafting and baking cookies.

She was preceded in death by her father on February 14, 2010.

Surviving are her husband, Greg Dean of Magnolia; son, Jason Dean of Magnolia; mother, Mary Beavers of Ravenna; brother, Edward Beavers and wife, Lynn of Joshua; nephews and nieces, Paul Moore, Bobby Moore and wife, Stevie, Dusty Moore, Cassandra Beavers and Brittany Beavers; and great-nephews, Corey Moore and Jessie Moore.

winter, but it has also allowed us to reorganise things so that we make life that wee bit easier for us, allowing us more time to ensure that our visitors enjoy the Gilnockie Tower experience.

Now that the lion's share of the repair work is completed we can now get down to the nitty gritty of what has been going on this last 3 years.

This news letter starts with the first chapter of our new guide book, following on with several interesting videos that may help you understand out part of the Anglo-Scottish Border. Written over the last few months, we take this opportunity to thank sincerely Miriam Bibby and Fiona Armstrong for the huge task they have taken on.

During the weekend 20th and 21st July 2019 Gilnockie Tower celebrates its 500th birthday and we are planning and looking forward to a huge weekend of celebrations that include a medieval village hosted by a group of local re-enactors who will educate the visitor about what went on in the 16th century around Gilnockie. In the 16th century hospital you will be able to have your appendix removed, at the same time have a hair cut!!!

Music from several local musicians, hog and beef roast, bar, chainsaw artist, pottery demonstration, 16th century market, Steel Bonnets whisky display, and a fully stocked Armstrong shop inside

Continued on page 27

MacDuffee Clan Society of America, Inc.

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rledyard@tds.net



MacDuffee
Clan Society
of America



Have you heard? *Continued from page 25*

Gilnockie Tower, and the brand new Gilnockie Tower figurine will be ready for display that weekend, my my the list goes on and on.

We are also remembering that weekend Neil Alden Armstrong and his team landing on the moon! Much more to come!

Our online shop is now online with interesting and some unique Armstrong gifts.

Please check out: < <https://www.gilnockietower.co.uk/shop-online/>>

One of the authors that we stock, its really exciting reading so pop along for a coffee.

Margaret Skea grew up in Northern Ireland during the 'Troubles', so is no stranger to conflict. An award-winning novelist and short story writer, her primary passion is for atmospheric, authentic, historical fiction.

Her first novel, *Turn of the Tide* won her the Beryl Bainbridge Award for Best 1st Time Novelist 2014, and the sequel *A House Divided* was long listed for the (International) Historical Novel Society Novel Award 2016.

The recently released *By Sword and Storm* is the third in the series. All three follow the fortunes of a fictional family trapped in the long-running and bloody feud between the Cunninghames and Montgomeries, which, although centered on Ayrshire, is representative of many of the feuds involving Borders families.

She is currently working on a new series, the first of which, *Katharina: Deliverance*, a novel based on the life of Martin Luther's wife, was Runner-Up in the Historical Novel Society Novel Award 2018.

She is an experienced workshop leader and public speaker and is available to give presentations in a wide variety of contexts and to groups of any size. She is also happy to visit book groups either in person or via Skype.

Welcome to Gilnockie Tower- the booklet!

A Guide for 21st Century Reivers:

Welcome to reiving country! This is where the riders and raiders of the five hundred years held sway, but today we offer you a warm welcome in the Borderlands.

We hope you enjoy your visit to our 16th century tower house here on the divide between England and Scotland. This iconic stronghold is a Clan Armstrong tower and said to have been home to the

infamous reiver, Johnnie Armstrong of Gilnockie. 500-years-old it stands in an area known as 'the Debatable Lands', because, in times past, no-one knew if they belonged to England, or to Scotland.

In these pages, we'll introduce you to the history and legends surrounding Gilnockie. One of the finest examples of a reiving tower house, it was once a

fortified base with narrow windows through which shots could be fired. When under attack the inhabitants could go up onto the roof and throw unpleasant things down on invaders.

A tower like this was the perfect place from which to set off to do a spot of reiving, or stealing. The season for raiding was autumn to spring, when nights were long and it might be a quick moonlight plunder, or a foray that lasted days. The reivers went on horseback. The aim was and to 'intake goods and chattels,' destroy property, and return with as many stolen animals as possible.

In its lifetime, Gilnockie Tower has been home to a den of rampaging Reivers. It has spent time as a forlorn and neglected ruin - and been restored to be a snug family home. Now, thanks to a further three-year repair programme, it is entering its next stage of life, as a historic centre. So, let's start outside the building...

Who built Gilnockie - and why?

Continued on page 29





Elliot Clan Society, USA Membership Information 2019

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 Elliots 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

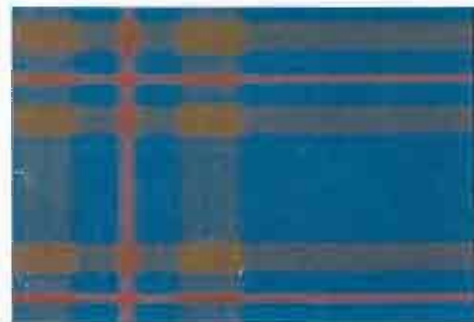
Email: dublincollen@sbcglobal.net or write

2984 Siskiyou Boulevard

Medford, OR 97504

(Fortiter Et Recte)

Boldly and Rightly



Have you heard? *Continued from page 27*

Gilnockie is rubble-built and defensive. It was constructed to house an important family - possibly a Borderland chieftain - and to protect them against attacks from other reivers. These riders and raiders had 'a persuasion that all property is common by the law of nature - and is therefore liable to be appropriated by them in their necessity.'

On any border there can be friction between the two sides - and the Anglo-Scottish divide of yesteryear was no exception. Armed families and friends rode in bands and these lawless men dominated life in the Borderlands from the medieval period to the end of the 1500s. This part of Scotland was once like the wild west. It was the reivers who gave us the term 'blackmail'.

There was not only conflict between Scotland and England, there was feuding between families living on the same side of the border. One of the most vicious feuds in this part of the world was between the Maxwells and the Johnstones, but the Armstrongs also had their enemies...

The Armstrongs were the most feared clan on the border. At one stage they were said to be able to put three thousand men in the saddle, but they, too, needed somewhere safe to live. Hence the tower: built to protect against English invaders and rival local families.

A good guess is that Gilnockie was built around 1519 - 20. We know it was probably one of the places that came under attack during a raid by the English in 1528. We can't say with absolute certainty who built it, but tradition links this place to one of the most famous and feared Reivers of the border. Is this the tower that a powerful rider and raider called Johnnie Armstrong called home? Did he go from here on his way to a fateful meeting with King James V of Scotland? That's one of the stories we'll explore...

How was Gilnockie Tower constructed?

The tower is built from limestone and sandstone. The inner and outer walls have a cavity between them which the builders filled with stone, rubble and wood. This might have provided insulation, or it may have given the walls resilience in case of cannon attack. Whatever it was, well-organised labour was needed to construct the building because some of the stone blocks are very large.

It's possible that the stone came from a large hole at the rear of the building. We know there was once a limestone quarry near here - and this might have given the land and hamlet adjacent to the tower its alternative name: "Holehouse," or "Hollows" and is still used locally to describe the immediate area.

Some of the stone would have come from quarries further north. But as 16th century roads were little more than dirt tracks it wouldn't have been transported on a wheeled vehicle. Instead, stone might have been carried on sleds drawn by oxen, or, more likely, it may have been floated down the nearby River Esk on rafts.

Being on a river was vital for water and food. The Esk would have provided a rich supply of sea trout and

salmon and there was a plentiful supply of game in the nearby woods. For the reivers, though, nothing tasted as good as the cattle they stole from the other side of the border...

If you look up towards the top of the building, you will see a piece of fancy stonework that runs all the way round the outside. This rope work is purely for decoration. It shows the owner of the tower had wealth - and wanted to make that known to the rest of the world...

Next is a video recorded by our very own Howard Mattinson, it a dramatic journey up the River Esk, enjoy... <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HT9UOKBHQD8>>





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Tartans Museum gets tartans from space, both Macbean and Ross!

The Scottish Tartans Museum and Heritage Center, Inc., of Franklin, North Carolina, announced today the completion of their new exhibit of recently obtained tartans that traveled to the moon and Mir Space Station.

The exhibit will be unveiled on Saturday, April 6th at 11:00 AM.

Thanks to the efforts of Jim Akins, two astronauts, Alan Bean and Jerry Ross, donated to the museum the tartans they took with them into space.

Jim contacted Alan Bean in April of 2018 about the possibility of getting a piece of the historic tartan.

His response was positive and in early May, a piece of that tartan was received, along with a certificate of authenticity.

When Alan set foot upon the moon on November 19, 1969, the MacBean tartan was with him.

Contrary to popular belief, he did not leave it on the moon as a flag.

Encouraged by Alan Bean's response, Jim contacted Jerry Ross requesting a piece of the tartan he took into space, mentioning that Alan Bean had donated a piece of his own tartan.

Jerry Ross responded that he would send the Ross tartan he took into space on the shuttle on mission STS-74.

On the morning of November 12, 1995, *Atlantis* lifted off the pad at Kennedy Space Center to dock with the Mir Space Station.

The museum, expecting one tartan, when they opened the package from Jerry Ross, as it contained five Ross tartans and a certificate of authenticity.

These six tartans of such historical significance are a priceless addition to the Scottish Tartans Museum and Heritage Center, Inc., and will remain on permanent display.

About the Scottish Tartans Museum

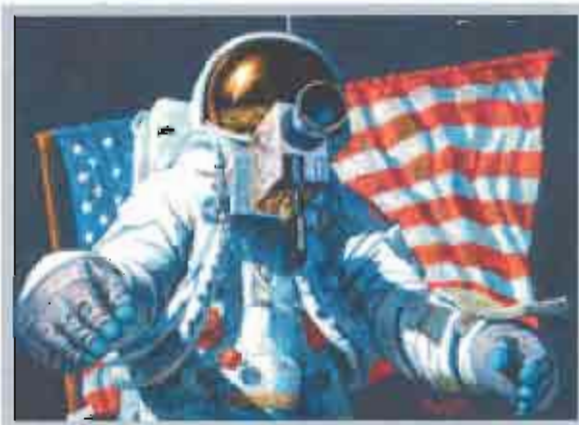
The Scottish Tartans Museum is a nonprofit corporation in business for over three decades. It is the only museum of its kind outside Scotland.

The Scottish Tartans Museum is committed to the promotion and education of tartan, Highland dress and the history and culture of Scotland.

The museum has an extensive gift shop of Scottish and Celtic treasures. It, along with the museum, may be accessed at <www.scottishtartansmuseum.org>

Jim Akins, president, can be reached at 828-524-7472.

The museum address is 86 East Main St., Franklin, NC 28734.



Alan Bean, painted by the astronaut himself!



Ross Tartans in Space. From left to right: Ross hunting tartan (modern), Ross tartan (ancient), weathered Ross hunting tartan, Ross tartan (modern) and the Ross hunting tartan (ancient).



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!

April Fools' tradition popularized

On this day in 1700, English pranksters begin popularizing the annual tradition of April Fools' Day by playing practical jokes on each other.

Although the day, also called All Fools' Day, has been celebrated for several centuries by different cultures, its exact origins remain a mystery.

Some historians speculate that April Fools' Day dates back to 1582, when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, as called for by the Council of Trent in 1563. People who were slow to get the news or failed to recognize that the start of the new year had moved to January 1 and continued to celebrate it during the last week of March through April 1 became the butt of jokes and hoaxes.

These pranks included having paper fish placed on their backs and being referred to as poisson d'avril (April fish), said to symbolize a young, "easily hooked" fish and a gullible person.

April Fools' Day spread throughout Britain during the 18th century. In Scotland, the tradition became a two-day event, starting with "hunting the gowk," in which people were sent on phony errands (gowk is a word for cuckoo bird, a symbol for fool) and followed by Tailie Day, which involved pranks played on people's derrieres, such as pinning fake tails or "kick me" signs on them.

April 1 is a day for practical jokes in many countries

around the world. The simplest jokes may involve children who tell each other that their shoelaces are undone and then cry out "April Fool!" when the victims glance at their feet. Some April Fool's jokes publicized in the media include:

In 2002, British supermarket chain *Tesco* published an advertisement in *The Sun*, announcing a genetically modified 'whistling carrot'. The ad explained that the carrots were engineered to grow with tapered air holes in their side. When fully cooked, these holes would cause the carrot to whistle.

In the early 1960s there was only one television channel in Sweden, broadcast in black and white. As an April Fool's joke, it was announced on the news that viewers

could convert their existing sets to display color reception by pulling a nylon stocking over their screen.

In 1934, many American newspapers, including *The New York Times*, printed a photograph of a man flying through the air, supported by a device powered only by the breath from his lungs. Accompanying articles excitedly described this miraculous new invention.

The English, Scots and French eventually introduced the custom to their colonies in America.

A favorite joke was to send someone on a "fool's errand"...for example, "Go and buy me some tartan paint."...heh heh heh

See page 2 of this section.

More heh heh heh.



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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



We are sad to announce the passing of long-time friend, **Ed Jones**, and we were so glad to be able to spend a little time with Ed over the last few weeks, he will be greatly missed. *Colin & Julia*

On Tuesday, February 26, 2019, surrounded by his family, Edward Jones went to meet the Lord. Born in Norfolk, Virginia, he was 80 years old.

Ed was involved in scouting for 60 years and was scout master for Troop 747 for several years. He owned and operated Two Eddie's Screen Print Shop on the square in Glasgow, Kentucky, for 14 years.

After selling the business, he enjoyed doing what

he enjoyed up until the time of his death. He served on the Glasgow, Kentucky, Highland Games Board for fifteen years and during his tenure, he designed the games t-shirts, pins, and other merchandise.

Ed is survived by his wife Carolyn Bailey Jones and; five children: Brian Bolton (Christy) of Conway, North Carolina; Mary Hughes and Scott Jones of Portsmouth, Virginia; Amie DeWar of Virginia Beach, Virginia and Jaimie Warren of Buford, South Carolina; 12 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren; 2 nieces, including a special niece Linda Lou Allen of Graves City, Ohio.

Survivors also include two step-children: Charles K. Bailey (Missy) and Denise Gore (Tal) of Glasgow, Kentucky; two step-grandchildren: B. J. Reneau (Sarah) and Bailey Reneau of Glasgow, Kentucky; two step-great-grandsons.

Ed Jones, Raknar name KR Knight Trygvar, was also a long time member in the Kingdome of Raknar.



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Clan Home Society (Int.) Stone Mountain 2015