



DO YOU WANT TO SEE COSCA CONTINUE TO THRIVE? ARE YOU PREPARED TO HELP US MAKE THAT HAPPEN?

COSCA was founded in 1976. Since that time, it has produced a newsletter, convened many clan & family caucuses, and cosponsored national conferences like the annual Scottish North American Community Conference (SNACC), Tartan Day celebrations, etc. All of these activities are undertaken by COSCA with the twin goals of spreading Scottish culture in North America and supporting Scottish-orientated organizations. In all of these efforts, the goal was, and is, communication. And because we are a 501(c)3 educational non-profit, educational materials must be offered by us.

This newsletter *The Claymore*, was jump-started six years ago by your current governance team, after a hiatus of several years. Since 2015, it has come out twice annually. And over these years, it has grown into a full-length, magazine-style publication of 30 pages or more—something much more than a member newsletter. It has grown into a scholarly document, totally different. And it continues to grow in length and in the breath of its subject matter as more and more contributing authors send us copy. Our goal has been to produce a glossy publication crammed full of worthwhile educational material, of interest to the entire Scottish American Community. And it has been very well received. The fact that it has grown so much is a tribute to COSCA's reach and increased visibility. But because of its length and complexity, we have published on average only two editions a year.

COSCA members also want, and deserve, a shorter, more frequent publication which is truly a newsletter and which focuses more directly on what our members—especially our clan and family association members—are doing and planning to do. This was a major recommendation by our Strategic Planning Committee, one which your officers and Board of Directors have now embraced. So with the support of our governance group, I as your Editor would like to propose some changes.

The Claymore will for the most part go back to being a shorter, more member-focused newsletter. It will be produced every other month, six times a year. These editions will be limited to 4 pages only and contain brief

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I am always delighted to receive a copy of “The Claymore”, but this edition is even more exciting for me as the subject matter focuses on Scots heraldry.

It is often said that Scots heraldry is “**the garden of Scottish history**”. The colours, charges and composition of a coat of arms tells a tale and narrates the history of the armiger him/herself. Our heraldry tells us not only about individuals, but also about their families and clans, and proclaims the worldwide influence which “Living Scotland” has on our present-day world. Scots heraldry is for you and is part of this Living Scotland. It is a truly vibrant science that is continually developing, and there is a need for us to keep it to the fore as something that is relevant to all of us today. We are often unaware of how influential heraldry has been and still is on everyday life and how regularly we encounter it and seek to interpret its imagery and symbols.

Heraldry is also a unique subject in that it is governed by the law – in Scotland by the courts of Scotland, and in particular the Court of the Lord Lyon. In Scots heraldry we are governed by a set of principles and rules of law which are laid down in the statutes and legislation of our Parliament. Our excellent armorial legislation, which is based on the scientific approach applied to heraldry in Scotland, in my view leads the world in the field of heraldry and spans all aspects and spheres of life. We have a system of heraldry which is not only decorative but at its core is instilled with identity, and which in its images captures the deepest aspects of human nature.

Many of you will know that the Office of the Lord Lyon dates back to the mists of Celtic life in Scotland, being rooted in the Office of the High Seanchaidh. You may not know, however, that the Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland, which contains all entries officially recorded within Scotland, goes back centuries. Indeed, in 2022 we will be celebrating 350 years of the Register. It is a unique anniversary for Scots heraldry, and even more so as it falls in the same year as the Platinum Jubilee of the succession to the Throne by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. I would therefore encourage you to embrace the spirit of Scots heraldry and the impact it has had through the stories it tells, and to enjoy exploring it within this excellent publication.

With my very best wishes,

Yours as always,

Dr Joseph J Morrow, CBE, QC, FRSE
The Rt Hon Lord Lyon King of Arms
Edinburgh, 1 October 2021

arms Heraldry Coats of Arms
Society Battle Armiger Mantle
Heraldic arms Crest family

Dr Joseph John Morrow, CBE, QC, LLD, DL, FRSE
The Right Honorable the Lord Lyon King of Arms

arms Heraldry Coats of Arms
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This issue is devoted to a discussion of coats of arms, the intricacies of the process of application for arms and hopefully, a clear description of some of the elements of arms. It is directed at you, the normal average person. Many are those who wonder and ask “what does that mean”, “what value does this have in this day and age”, “how can I get one of those”?

I am an American and an Australian. I obtained arms for my father as a gift in 2017 for his 97th birthday. The application required proof of lineage back into Scotland among other data elements. And of course, some pounds were exchanged. However, it was approved by the Lord Lyon and arms for my father resulted, as will be seen here.

I cannot emphasise enough that the “common” man CAN obtain their own arms. It does cost some, but that is minimal for a lifetime arms that may also be an hereditary item and therefore last across generations.



LORD LYON SOCIETY
NOTE OF FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR DEVELOPMENT STAGE
Background

The office of Lord Lyon was first recorded in the 14th century, but is regarded as originating in the office of High Seannachie to the Monarchs of Celtic Scotland, who was the Royal Poet and Keeper of the Royal Genealogy. The Office of the Court of the Lord Lyon keeps a vast and unique collection of records relating to heraldry, genealogy and Scottish history covering five centuries. The Lord Lyon Society was set up to give public access, both at home and internationally, to the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland together with the relevant Court books containing petitions and correspondence. The final stage of the process will provide access to the general archive of material held within the Office.

The Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland (“the Register”) was established in 1672 by the Lyon King of Arms Act of the same year. In 2022, the Register will be celebrating its 350th anniversary, and the Society will be formally launched to mark the anniversary.

There will be a series of events held to mark the celebration both in Scotland and online overseas, to promote within all our communities accessibility to the content of the collection. The Society will increase awareness of the collection and its contents as well as promoting its accessibility for the general public. At the same time, the project for the development of the Society will begin the digitisation, and hence an alternative method of preservation, of the documents for future use.

This will be of interest not only to heraldists and genealogists, but to anyone engaged in social history within Scotland and in the Scottish diaspora.

There are around 100 volumes of heraldic entries within the collection, as well as the associated Court books and correspondence. In 2022, the Society will be able to establish accessibility to the Register – or at least to some of its contents – through the digitisation of the Register and via the Society’s website. It is proposed that viewing of the Register shall be freely available to members of the public.

This will comprise the main thrust of the development stage of the Society, alongside engagement with the public to promote awareness and access to the contents of the collection. It is also hoped that, during the 350th anniversary year, we can build a strong list of “supporters” in Scotland and overseas.

Once the development stage has been completed and during its implementation, further work will be done by the trustees to identify sources of funding from heritage funds in order to continue the digitisation of the Court books and other records over a three year period. This is future work, and it is the development work of engagement and raising awareness with the general public and others that is essential to our ability to progress to the continuing digitisation phase.

In addition to the above, in 2022 a series of events to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the establishment of the Register will take place in six locations throughout Scotland and, hopefully, also overseas online events. The creation of the necessary digital platform to give the public access to the Register is the essential component in this early stage and will form the basis for our future activities.

In summary, the purpose of the Lord Lyon Society is to make the significant collection of records available to people in the United Kingdom and throughout the world who have connections with Scotland. In addition to this public accessibility we consider it vital to ensure that the collection is preserved for future generations.



Aims of the Lord Lyon Society

The Society is an independent charity registered with the Scottish Charity Regulator. The purposes of the Society are as follows:

- (1) To promote Scottish heraldry, genealogy and related arts heritage and culture.
- (2) To advance heraldic genealogical and Scottish heritage through education and engagement with young people.
- (3) To aid and support the protection and preservation of the records, archives and collections of the Court and Office of the Lord Lyon.
- (4) To aid and support the digitisation of those records and to make them accessible to the public at no cost.
- (5) To support and promote the contribution by the Scottish diaspora, especially within the Commonwealth, to heraldic, genealogical and cultural education.

The trustees of the Society are:

The Lord Lyon, Dr Joseph J Morrow, CBE QC FRSE

Robin Blair, CVO – former Lord Lyon

Very Revd. Professor Iain R Torrance, KCVO – former Dean of the Chapel Royal in Scotland

Professor Gillian Black – Law School of the University of Edinburgh

Russell G Hunter – Lyon Clerk and Keeper of the Records

Fiona McKay Secretary to the Trust.

Budgetary projections for the development stage

Please see next page.

General comments: The Society is a vehicle for raising funds to achieve the aims outlined above, in particular the accessibility for the public of the Register and wider collection and its long-term preservation in digital form. The Register and records of the collection are unique and often described as the “garden of the history of the Scots”. The Register is physically contained in around 100 bound volumes of vellum sheets, which are at present in good condition but fragile. The preservation digitally of these documents will be a major achievement for the future. While the first entry in the Register dates from the year 1672, there are even earlier nonpublic records which are held within the Lyon Office.



Dr Joseph J Morrow, CBE, QC, FRSE
The Rt Hon Lord Lyon King of Arms
The Court of the Lord Lyon, Edinburgh

The development stage of the Society is an essential part of the project's timeline. When fully operational at the end of 2022, it will take a further 3 years to digitise the collection which is located in New Register House in Edinburgh.

I would wish to record my personal thanks and those of the trustees for consideration of this matter.

LORD LYON SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT BUDGET

		+ VAT	= Total
Website design with effective hosting, certification and maintenance	£8,000.00	£1,500.00	£9,500.00
Production of publicity material incl. promotional leaflets and educational material	£2,100.00	£420.00	£2,520.00
Inaugural Society lecture to celebrate 350 th Anniversary of the Register	£750.00		£750.00
One full year's programme of Anniversary events incl. six events held in different parts of Scotland to promote the Society's aims and a school competition on heraldry and calligraphy (which will include the payment of heraldic artists in support of this part of the project)	£5,500.00		£5,500.00
External IT consultancy in relation to the digitisation of the Register and accessibility to the public	£2,500.00	£500.00	£3,000.00
Total projected costs*			£21,270.00

*Development stage costings are obtained by the trustees through quotes based on established providers



PRESIDENT'S PAGE



As I write this, a few highland games events are still on track for the fall of 2021, but it has been a very abbreviated games season, due to continuing public health concerns in many parts of the country. As our second COVID-19 summer fades and fall approaches, it's time to take stock of where we are as an organization.

Disruptions to the highland games season caused by the spike in the ultra-contagious Delta Virus this past summer resulted in our decision not to attend the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games (GMHG) as an organization, nor to hold an in-person annual general meeting (AGM) this year. That said, much has happened behind the scenes in recent months that lays the groundwork for a stronger, and more member-centered organization, going forward for 2022. Read on for the details.

This issue of *The Claymore* is largely dedicated to the subject of Scots heraldry. We hope you will enjoy the array of articles on this subject and use them as a springboard to delve more deeply into this very interesting subject. The issue kicks off with a short welcome note from Dr. Joseph Morrow, the current Lord Lyon King of Arms, who is an officer of the Queen's Household for Scotland. I especially draw your attention to the article about the new nonprofit Lord Lyon Society, whose mission is to digitize all the several hundred years worth of folios of arms painted on vellum and stored in the offices of Lyon Court, in Edinburgh. Anyone interested in viewing these thousands of painted Scottish coats of arms must go physically to the offices of the Lord Lyon to view them. But once the Lord Lyon Society has raised the necessary funds from charitable donations, these will all be computerized, in full color and alphabetized so that they can be called up online for viewing. Note that one of our contributor's, COSCA member Donald Campbell, who is North American Board Member of the Heraldry Society of Scotland and is an internationally recognized expert on the subject, has written a lengthy but very readable paper on this subject, which will be posted shortly on the COSCA Website.

This issue also contains the second of three installments of Clan Gregor Society Board member Keith MacGregor's article about his 20-year effort, on behalf of the Clan Gregor Society, to unearth the so-called "Dalmally Stones"—carved images of Clan Gregor chiefs from the Middle Ages—and move them from their current derelict location beneath the turf in Dalmally kirkyard in Argyll to a position inside the building, where they can be protected from the elements and properly displayed for public viewing. This is a fine example of the kind of clan and family society-based projects we at COSCA are looking to publicize. What is **YOUR** society doing, either here in the USA or back in the Old Clan Country, to preserve and protect your heritage that others could benefit from hearing about?

The next few months will see us adding several new members to our Advisory Board to replace those who have gone inactive of late or otherwise left the scene. We have some candidates in mind, though only one has so far been added to the group, which continues to include Andrew Morrison, Viscount Dunrossil; Sir Malcolm MacGregor, Chief of Clan Gregor; and COSCA President Emeritus Bob McWilliam.



I am delighted to announce that former Congressman Mike McIntyre of NC has agreed to join our Advisory Board (picture above). From 2004 to 2014, while serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, he co-chaired the very active Friends of Scotland Caucus in the House, which was instrumental in promoting the Tartan Day holiday, as well as maintaining an active interface with the Scottish Government's office here in Washington, the Scottish Affairs Office. Now retired from politics, Mr. McIntyre practices government affairs law in Charlotte. He was an Honored Guest at GMHG in 2018, where he attended our AGM and spoke to our assembled membership.

[Continued on page 16](#)

RISE OF THE YOUTH

R. Alasdair Morrison, Morrison of Ruchdi Chief of Clan Morrison

Dr. J. Ruairidh Morrison, Chief of Clan Morrison, passed away on 7 November 2020 from cancer. Following the chief's untimely death, his son Alasdair, a 17-year-old U.S.-based high school senior, assumed the role of chief. Alasdair has since graduated, early, from high school and is taking a gap year as he prepares for university in the UK in fall 2022.

Chief Alasdair was born in New Hampshire, USA and holds dual citizenship in the US and the UK. While Alasdair's family ties to Scotland come through his father, his mother, Dr. Ann Michelle Morrison, was born in Atlanta and raised in Tennessee in the southern US. Alasdair has a younger sister, Marin, who was also born in New Hampshire and is a sophomore in high school this year.

Alasdair is the first American-born chief of the clan, but he spent his childhood summers at the family home, Ru Ruchdi, in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland, where the family worked on restoring the old house, hiking the hills and bogs of the islands, and helping their neighbors on the crofts whenever possible. Alasdair's dual Scottish and American heritage converge in his enjoyment of playing Celtic and bluegrass fiddle. During the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games recently, Alasdair surprised onlookers by sitting in and substituting, capably, for a state champion fiddler when she took a break. Alasdair's other interests include computer science, which he plans to study at university, and karate, in which he is a third-degree black belt and instructor.

Alasdair has been preparing for his role as chief his entire life. He attended his first highland games in New Hampshire when he was only a few months old and has since attended games throughout the US and even on the island of North Uist in the Outer Hebrides with his father. This year Alasdair came to Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, where he was the only chief present and the youngest ever to open the games. Alasdair plans to attend the Stone Mountain games, this year as well.



ARMIGERS & HERALDRY

Bruce MacGregor Whyte, MD (Editor)

This article is a compilation of writings by the editor, partially reliant on definitions and terminology usage as described by Donald Draper Campbell in his manuscript *"Scottish Armory and Heraldry: A General Overview"*.¹

We hear these words often, armigers and heraldry, in our other world, that of our Scottish heritage. So just what is an armiger and what is heraldry? What are arms?

Armiger: According to the Scottish Society of Armigers, a Scottish armiger is a person who has a coat of arms recorded in the *"Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland"* in the Court of the Lord Lyon in Edinburgh, period. It is as simple as that.

Armory, "the basis of arms, is that science of which the rules and the laws govern the use, display, meaning", and *"knowledge of the pictured signs and emblems appertaining to shield, helmet, or banner"*². As you can guess, armory is the basis of arms and hence, armigers.

You would expect to then find an organization that seeks to represent these armigers as is found in all other *"groupings"* based on shared common traits, family, cultural and/or national. The armigers have their own society, The Society of Scottish Armigers, headquartered in Edinburgh, SCO. The Society ensures the preservation of all things armigerous and heraldic and have documented their work in an Armorial, defined as a book of heraldic devices by most dictionaries.

Heraldry: according to the Encyclopedia Britannica, heraldry is the *"science and art that deal with the use, display, and regulation of hereditary symbols employed to distinguish individuals, armies, institutions, and corporations"*. But back to basics again, heraldry seems to be the visual display and identification of the person wearing their arms.



But that is just too simple an explanation. Heraldry originated as the description of everything within the duties of a herald. To put this another way, the herald was the original multi-tasking administrator of the leader. He (usually) was minstrel (recounted the exploits of his master and his ancestors), genealogist, and messenger (carried documents between leaders). Later it was recognised that the herald was also the arbiter of arms determination of those taking part in tournaments.

And whilst Armory undoubtedly is Heraldry, the regulation of ceremonials and matters of pedigree, which are really also within the scope of Heraldry, most decidedly is not Armory. There is much historical and contemporary discussion about the role of heraldry and the actual meaning of heraldry, going back to the third crusade in 1189.



Let's briefly cover some of the basics. The various distinct parts of a coat of arms are known as achievements and have specific names. A shield for example is not a "family crest". The crest is just the bits on top of the helmet. So, what are the parts called? Other than the helmet, which is obvious.

Shield: This is the foundation of all arms, and some people petition for that alone. It must be unique to each person, because no two people may bear the same coat of arms at the same time. In males it is usually a Heater Shield" as it is based in the shape of a flat iron. Shields of women are usually oval escutcheon or like a lozenge.

Motto: The motto is pretty self-explanatory. It need not be unique, but in Scottish heraldry it will often "respond" to the chief's. So, if the chief's motto were "Do not forget", a cadet's motto might be "Never forgotten" or something along those lines. Often the meaning was known only to the armiger who adopted it.

Crest: As you can see to the right, it is simply the part on top of the arms above the helmet. It is also described as developed from the fan-shaped ridge along the top of some helmets which was designed to temper a blow. This ridge came to be painted with the wearer's arms

Torse/Wreath: To keep it simple, it is simply a twisted piece of cloth of the "livery colors", which are usually the first metal and color used in the written description of the coat of arms. There must be six twists of the wreath.

Mantling: Some cloth drawn, often in fancy designs, usually of the livery colors, but not always.

OK, so now my father has been granted his arms (see previous page). These are individual, meaning they are his alone and no-one else can use them in their unaltered state. Even his 1st born son and heir can't use them without an extra little symbol added to it that means "*These aren't mine yet, but I am the heir to these arms*". So, until Dad dies, I can only use the arms temporarily "*differenced*" (meaning they must be changed or modified in some way) with an extra symbol. Let's say Dad has 3 other younger sons. The 2nd – 4th sons can use Dad's arms with extra temporary symbols that mean "*I'm the xth son*". But they can only do that while they are children (for daughters it works differently).

The arms on the right, second from the bottom, are mine (eldest son and heir) differenced with the red lines, and the arms of the second eldest son on the bottom. I remember them as "elder has fewer teeth" than younger (bottom). Only reflects reality!. If you are a younger son, or belong to a younger branch, of a grantee, you inherit the right to apply for "matriculation" of those ancestral arms with a suitable mark of difference being added to show your place in the family.

Now is where the real world catches up to them. Once the sons move out and set up houses of their own, they know they have an inherited right to arms (because their father has arms), but they do not have actual coat of arms themselves. If they want arms, they'll have to petition



arms themselves. If they want arms, they'll have to petition the Lord Lyon for a differenced version of their father's arms. Their arms will be changed slightly in a way that shows their position within the family. If they don't petition for a differenced coat of arms, they have no arms. Period.

Easy, right. Now the difficult part. The arms, once granted, are then prepared to be sent to the grantee. Each one is hand painted, script and graphics, and details the awarded arms. For example, the parchment describes:

“Argent, a sword in bend dexter Azure and an oak tree eradicated in bend sinister Proper, the former supporting on its point indexter chief canton an antique crown Gules, on a chief wavy Azure, a compass and two books Argent, Above the Shield is placed anHelm befitting his degree with a Mantling Azure doubled argent and on a wreath of the liveries is set for Crest a demi-lion crowned with an antique crown Or, holding in it dexter paw a torch sable, framed with Motto “A SIREADH EOLAS”. These are your arms now! What does it all mean?

Here is a simplistic translation:

It starts with a white shield on which is a blue sword containing as a diagonal stripe starting in the right hand side of the shield and an oak tree ripped out by its roots starting in the left hand side of the shield. The sword supports on its point an antique red crown, on a wavy blue sea with a white compass and two white books. Above the shield is placed a helmet befitting his degree with a blue and white mantling and the crest is the top half of a lion crowned with an antique gold crown, holding in it's right paw a black torch, framed with the motto “Seeking Knowledge”. That is a loose translation of these arms.

argent:	silver or white
azure:	blue
sable:	black
or:	gold
bend:	diagonal stripe on a shield
dexter:	the right side of the shield (left to an observer)
sinister:	the left hand side of the shield (right to an observer)
eradicated:	torn out by the roots
proper:	in its natural color
canton:	one quarter of a shield
gules:	red
wavy:	line of division as in depicting waves
demi-lion:	half a lion depicted as the top half
torch sable:	black torch

References for this article

¹ Scottish Armory and Heraldry: A General Overview, Donald Draper Campbell, 2003 - 2021, Revised 2021 April 23. Delegate for North American and Honorary Member – The Heraldry Society of Scotland; Sennachie, Board Member & Fellow – The Society of Scottish Armigers; Fellow – Society of Antiquaries (Scotland); Sennachie – The Clan Campbell Society (North America); and Board Member & Sennachie – Clan Campbell Educational Foundation.

The entire discourse will be placed on the COSCA website - all 100 pages of it.

² Arthur Charles Fox-Davies (1871-1928), English heraldic author, writer and lawyer.

Coat of Arms of Henry Malcolm Whyte, Esq.



Contributors to this newsletter that is dedicated to all things armorial and heraldic include The Lord Lyon, King of Arms, Dr Joseph Morrow; Viscount Dunrossil, Andrew Morrison; Chris Gillmore; Donald Draper Campbell; John King Bellasai; the editor, Bruce MacGregor Whyte. Some examples of crests are those of armigers as discussed in this newsletter and are below. The one exception is the second part of the article by Keith MacGregor on the Dalmally Stones Project. In the January newsletter we published the first part of Keith's article and promised the second part in this issue. There will now be a third part as a result of new details and results since this newsletter was completed.



The Armorial of the Society of Scottish Armigers

(submitted by Viscount Dunrossil, Andrew Morrison)

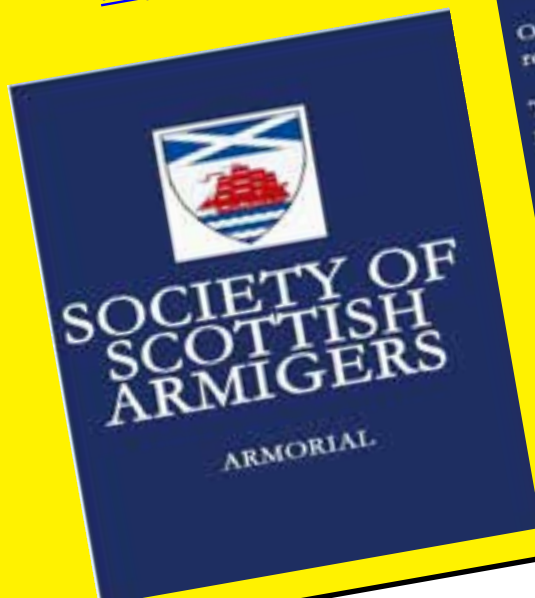
In 2016 the Society of Scottish Armigers published an Armorial, a beautifully illustrated and informative record of the arms of its members and honorary members, including many of the clan chiefs. The arms are grouped alphabetically by clan or family, enabling one to view the undifferenced arms of the chief and then the variations in arms held by members of their kindred.

Heraldry has been called illustrated history, and it is fascinating to look at the armsthemselvesandthemottosandwarcries,gainingarareinsightintotheway the first holders of those arms viewed themselves and their place in the world

But the book is far more than just a set of illustrations. The first 70 pages consists of a wealth of information about Scottish heraldry and the Court and Office of the Lord Lyon as well as the Society of Scottish Armigers, of which Lyon is the President. There is even information about the process of applying for arms, which anyone interested is encouraged to explore.

Over the years I have found that there is both a glaring lack of understanding in this country about Scottish heraldic law and protocol, and at the same time, a real interest in getting the right answers. The Society's mission is to help provide some of these answers, to be a valuable resource for organizers of Games and other interested parties. Its website (www.scotarmigers.net) contains a wealth of information under its FAQ or Frequently Asked Questions banner.

The Armorial itself can be purchased through Amazon
<https://www.amazon.com/dp/1523228768>.



The Heraldry Society of Scotland

by

Donald Draper Campbell, OStJ

The Heraldry Society of Scotland was founded in 1977 as a charity registered in Scotland with the objective of promoting the study of heraldry and encouraging its correct use in Scotland and Overseas.

The Society encourages people to join whether they have their own arms, intend to procure arms, or have a general interest in Scottish Heraldry. Our membership is made up of people from around the globe. Meetings are held several times during the year for lectures or visits to places of historic and heraldic interest, both in Scotland and in other countries.



The aims and objects of the Society are to encourage the study and practice in Scotland of heraldry and allied subjects, both indigenous and international, by arranging lectures, discussions, visits, publications and exhibitions, and by seeking to co-operate with other Societies devoted to the same or similar purposes

The Society is privileged to have members of Her Majesty's Officers of Arms between its members and a close liaison is maintained with The Court of the Lord Lyon. In fact the Office of President of the Society is held by the Lord Lyon King of Arms and first President was the late Sir Malcolm Rognvald Innes of Edingight, followed by Robin Orr Blair, the late William David Hamilton Sellar; and now by Joseph John Morrow.

Membership is open to any person interested in the study and practice of heraldry and allied subjects in Scotland and overseas. It is not necessary to possess a coat of arms to join the Society, but many members either are currently armigerous or intend to petition for a Grant or a Matriculation of Arms at some stage in the future.

Members of the Society are of all ages and scattered around the world. In fact the membership of the Society is more than 360 of which about 30 reside in either the United States of America or Canada. The Society members are interested in all aspects of armory, some being actively and professionally engaged in heraldic arts and crafts or in academic research. Membership is open to anyone professing an interest in Heraldry and allied subjects. For information on joining the Society, see <http://www.heraldry-scotland.co.uk/society-membership.html>

The Society runs various events throughout the year in Scotland, England UK and overseas. They range through illustrated talks, lectures, visits to heraldic locations and various other events and activities. During the 2020/2021 session the Society has held five lectures, using the virtual ZOOM platform, with an average attendance of 61

Lectures and other articles of armorial interest are published in the Society's annual journal, *The Double Tressure*, which is distributed free to members along with newsletter *Tak Tent* four times a year. In addition to these publications, the Society regularly produces other illustrated booklets on heraldic and related matters. Here is a list of Heraldry books published by the Society:

David M. Bertie, *Heraldry of the Bishops of Scotland*

David M. Bertie, *The Heraldry of the Ecclesiastical Deans of Scotland*

Charles Burnett and Leslie Hodgson, *Stall Plates*

Mark Donald Dennis, OStJ, *Scottish Heraldry : An Invitation*

Alex Maxwell Findlater, *Aspilogia Scoticana*

Alex Maxwell Findlater, *Lord Crawford's Armorial*

Alex Maxwell Findlater, *Lyndsay Armorial 1532-34*

Leslie Hodgson, *Dublin Armorial*

John and Eilean Malden, *The Dunvegan Armorial*

Eilean and John Malden and William G. Scott, *An Ordinary of Scottish Arms pre-1672*

For information on acquiring copies of these volumes see: <http://www.heraldry-scotland.co.uk/society-publications.html>

The Society has a website <http://www.heraldry-scotland.co.uk/members-arms.html>
Which displays the members armorial bearings, either Scottish or international.

Additionally the Society also has a presence on FaceBook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HeraldrySocietyofScotland/>

For additional information regarding the Society contact the Delegate for North America, Donald Draper Campbell via email at cmpblldd@gmail.com. A much longer scholarly paper by Donald Campbell will be uploaded to the COSCA website.



Lyon Opens Scottish Parliament

The Board of Director of COSCA also recently decided to extend honorary memberships to all chiefs who have attended our AGMs and who have maintained regular contact with us. This will be at no cost to them and they would not be able to vote.

COSCA's 2021 Annual General meeting (AGM) will again be held remotely this year, via Zoom

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM), normally held each year (since our founding in 1976) at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games (GMHG) in NC, was instead held remotely last year, for the first time. This was done because GMHG was cancelled for 2020, due to COVID-19. The COSCA Board had decided the best way to hold our AGM that gave maximum access, and guaranteed maximum attendance, was to do a remote meeting online, via *Zoom*. (Nonprofit corporations law in our state of incorporation (DE) allowed for this option and so we took full advantage of it.) The remote AGM last year was very well attended, and feedback was universally positive. For the reasons outlined below, we plan to do it that way again this year.

The COSCA Board of Directors decided back in the spring, by a vote of 9 to 3, that we would NOT have an organizational presence at GMHG this year, either, due to continuing public health concerns. (This decision was dictated by the fact that the ultra-contagious Delta Variant of COVID-19 was spiking in the Southern States in the early summer, and CDC data indicated that the vaccination rate in and around Avery County, NC --location of GMHG--was only 37 percent.) So instead of having an organizational presence at GMHG this year, it was agreed we will hold our AGM remotely again this fall, as we did last year, via Zoom.

As posted on our [Website](#) last month, we will again hold our AGM remotely this year, via Zoom. It will be held on Saturday, 13 November, at 4:00 PM Eastern time. Our Secretary, Charlie Sherwood, will host the remote AGM. All will be invited to join us online. A link for members to join the AGM Zoom call will be sent by Charlie to all members-in-good standing of COSCA, both Individual and Organizational Members, as the date of the call gets closer. Be on the lookout for the Zoom link.

As was the case last year, clan societies and other Organizational Members of COSCA will be required to select in advance one point of contact (POC) to officially speak and vote for them on the Zoom call, though online attendance at the AGM will be open to all members-in-good-standing of these organizations--just as has always been the case for our in-person AGM at GMHG. If you have not yet paid your annual dues for 2021, hurry up and do so! Only members-in-good standing will be allowed to vote during the AGM on matters properly before the Membership. These will include Board elections. (Though Officer positions are not up for reelection this year, three At-Large seats are up, including one empty/ open seat vacated by Scotty Gallamore when she went into assisted living.)

We plan as an organization to be back to GMHG in July 2022. COSCA's 50-year relationship with those games is key. The reasons we've always held our AGM there is mainly because 120 or more clan and family societies regularly attend those games--thus ensuring maximum attendance/ease of access to COSCA's AGM for all American Scots. In addition, GMHG is officially billed as a "gathering of the clans." Unlike many other highland games events, where clan society participation is an afterthought, at best, GMHG was specifically created for this purpose, and its charter says so. So COSCA is certain to find a friendly and supportive environment there, each and every year.

Generational change occurring not only in the ranks of clan societies, but also among clan chiefs.

Elsewhere in this edition of *The Claymore* you will see obituaries for two major highland clan chiefs—MacDonnell of Glengarry and Cluny MacPherson. Our condolences to their families and to all their clan-folk, as well as to the family of Lord Napier on the death of his son and heir William. And here you will also read about the installation of the new Morrison Chief, Alastair Morrison—a young man still in his twenties.

The subject of generational change among the membership of COSCA, and within the clan and family societies which make up the bulk of our membership, is an issue which is front and center for us right now. As it is for all USA-based clan and family societies--indeed, all American fraternal and heritage nonprofits (e.g., St. Andrew's societies, etc.). One aspect of this generational change that is a very great concern for all of us is that many longtime stalwarts among clan society leadership are now retiring or otherwise passing from the scene. And many younger Scottish-Americans, while interested in their heritage, tend to want to participate in very different ways from the older members. (Staffing clan tents at highland games and attending Burns Suppers, etc. seems to have less appeal for most of them, while interaction with other like-minded younger members via social media is a much bigger draw.)

Online communications have proved vital for American Scots over the past two years as we all respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and this mode of communication is clearly here to stay. (For example, holding our AGM remotely, via Zoom, rather than in person proved so successful last year and so popular that I expect we will continue to do it that way, going forward.) A number of recommendations in the interim report of our Strategic Planning Committee address ways to strengthen and expand COSCA's use of social media platforms—something we are now in the process of doing. But humans are social animals who require some degree of in-person interaction--and certainly a functioning clan society does. How to balance the two approaches to “connectedness” is a big issue for all of us that we are now exploring. In this regard, COSCA will definitely return to GMHG in 2022 and will once again hold a face-to-face event there for all our members in the Chieftain's Tent, next to the games field-- which will as in the past feature remarks by the visiting chiefs who will be attending GMHG next year.

Major Membership Recruitment Campaign Set for 2022. Regional Commissioners Initiative about to be kicked off—volunteers needed!

We will be kicking off a serious Membership Drive in 2022, focused primarily on recruiting new Organizational Members (clan societies, St. Andrew's societies, and others) to COSCA. In this regard, we are now moving to activate the Regional Commissioner system (designed primarily for new member recruitment, coast-to-coast) in early 2022—a new initiative which I announced back in January 2020, but which has been delayed due to the COVID-19 shutdown.

A long-neglected Bylaws provision is being relied on to reactivate Regional Commissioners for COSCA. Their sole job will be to help us recruit and retain members nationwide—especially in those areas away from the East Coast, where COSCA's strength has traditionally centered. The plan is to appoint a dozen Regional Commissioners, drawn from among our current members, to represent the following geographic regions:

1. New England (ME, NH, VT, CT, RI, MA),
2. Great Lakes (MI, WI, IL, MN),

3. Northeast (NY, NJ, PA),
4. Mid-Atlantic (DE, MD, DC, VA),
5. Southeast (NC, SC, GA, FL),
6. Upper Midwest (OH, IN, WV, KY),
7. Great Plains (KS, MO, IA, NE, OK, SD, ND),
8. South Central (TN, AR, AL, MS, LA),
9. Northwest (AK, WA, OR),
10. Rocky Mountain (MT, WY, UT, ID, CO),
11. West Central, (CA, NV, HI), and
12. Southwest (TX, AZ, NM).

It is important to point out that these individuals will NOT serve in a governance role; these will not be policy-making positions and they will not sit on the Board of Directors. Rather, they will be recruitment and outreach “ambassadors”—COSCA’s eyes and ears in the nationwide Scottish-American Community. They will be expected to promote COSCA at local area highland games, Burns suppers, Tartan Day gatherings, St. Andrew’s society meetings, and other events where American Scots typically gather—by making person-to-person contacts, as well as delivering promotional remarks and distributing membership applications and brochures, etc. To do so, COSCA will furnish each of them with personalized business cards, brochures, and talking points.

We do not see these individuals as staffing stationary COSCA tents or tables; rather, they will be expected to proactively circulate among the people gathered there, moving freely. What we are looking for is outgoing, people-oriented personalities who enjoy doing marketing and recruitment and who know their local Scottish communities. If you are interested in serving as a Regional Commissioner for COSCA, we’d like to hear from you!

These Regional Commissioners will be appointed by the President and report through the President to our Board of Directors; and they will serve at the pleasure of the President and the Board. They must reside in the region they will service. And they will be expected to submit regular updates on their activities to the Board and to sponsor new members for COSCA from among the contacts they make. We already have three volunteers who have stepped forward to serve in this role—one for New England, one for the Great Lakes area, and one for the Rocky Mountain states. If you are interested in serving as a Regional Commissioner, or if you want more information in order to make a decision whether to volunteer, please contact me directly, by telephone or email, as listed below.

Strategic Planning initiative continues. New Bi-Monthly Newsletter to be piloted. Success will depend on member support and contributions.

We at COSCA are now in the midst of a 10-year strategic planning process, with a three-fold focus on membership, communications and finance. During the summer, our Strategic Planning Committee submitted to the Board its first Interim Report—which focused primarily on communications. Relying on the inherent authority granted in our Bylaws to the President of the organization, I have already moved to act on some of their recommendations—including one involving creation of a new, shorter, bi-monthly newsletter--focused primarily on clan and family society news--which will supplement, not replace, *The Claymore* (which in contrast will continue to be published twice annually, in its current magazine style format). The success of this new bi-monthly newsletter will depend directly on member support and contributions. The emphasis will be on best practices and significant undertakings and projects by the clan and family associations and other organizations which make up the bulk of our membership. So if your clan society is up to something worth promoting, tell us about it!

Another initiative proposed by the Strategic Planning Committee which we are already moving forward on is a series of podcasts with key opinion leaders and upcoming young leaders in the Scottish-American Community. The first in this series—now prominently posted on the Homepage of the COSCA Website-- is an interview conducted at GMHG back in July by COSCA Board Member Rhonda Wardlaw (whose day job is Director of Communications for the City of Annapolis, the Maryland State Capital) with young Alastair Morrison, the newly installed Chief of Clan Morrison. I strongly recommend you go to our [Website](#) and listen to the entire interview with the young Morrison Chief; the sound quality is good and it is not that long.

Other Strategic Planning Committee recommendations will be taken up in the next few weeks by the Executive Committee of our Board which will meet remotely, *via Zoom*, prior to our remote AGM set for 13 November.

Upcoming SNACC Conference, Dec. 10 – 12. Once again, via Zoom.

As most of you know, COSCA, is a co-sponsor of the annual Scottish North American Community Conference (SNACC), along with The American Scottish Foundation (ASF), based in NYC, the St. Andrew's Societies of Illinois and Detroit ("Chicago Scots" and "Detroit Scots", respectively), the Scottish Studies Foundation at the University of Guelph, in Ontario, and COSCA's Canadian sister society, Clans & Scottish Organizations of Canada (CASSOC). Working together as a consortium, we are now deep into putting together this year's SNACC Conference, scheduled for 10th - 12th December (a Friday - Sunday).

This year's conference theme will be: *Expressions of Scottishness: Exploring the Full Dimensions of Scotland's Engagement with North America in 2021*. We are going to look beyond just heritage subject matter (though it will be included) to the arts, literature, fashion, music, eco-tourism, etc., etc. A number of prominent Scots will speak to the conference attendees remotely, in real time, from Scotland. Because next year will mark the 200th anniversary of the so-called "King's Jaunt" in 1822, this first visit to Scotland by a reigning British monarch in close to 200 years, that is something that will be the focus of several speakers at SNACC this December.



Though often dismissed as a piece of comic opera by casual commentators, in fact the significance for Highland Scots, and in many ways for all Scots, of King George IV's visit to Edinburgh in 1822 cannot be overstated. It marked the end of "North Britain" and a return of Scotland to its rightful place as a Nation within the United Kingdom. The pivotal role played in this affair by Sir Walter Scott, then at the zenith of his popularity, is demonstrated by his discovery, on the eve of the King's visit, of the Honours of Scotland—the crown and scepter--long before locked away in a chest in a back room of Edinburgh castle. Scott brings these out to present to King George, who accepts them and the accolades and toasts to him that follow, declaring him King of Scots. This episode in many ways marks a clear break from the bitter post-Culloden relationship between much of Scotland and the British Crown and ushers in a new age of official acceptance for the country, its customs and culture, tartan and all, by Britain and the wider world. It culminated just a few years later in the "highland revival" under George's successor, the young Queen Victoria, who enthusiastically embraced "all things Scottish." Be sure to register for SNACC 2021 to learn more about this important episode in Scottish history. Watch our [Website](#), as well as the [SNACC Conference website](#) for more details about Conference

sessions and speakers, coming shortly.

The importance of partnering with other Scottish heritage groups.

In this era of increasing facility rental costs, tight operational budgets and limited volunteer resources, partnering not only makes sense but in many situations is the only way we will be able to continue to offer the type and frequency of Scottish heritage events which we have all come to expect and enjoy. So COSCA not only values partnering but actively seeks out like-minded partner organizations whenever and wherever possible.

As noted above, COSCA has an established relationship with five other Scottish heritage organizations here in the States and in Canada to cosponsor the Scottish North American Community Conference (SNACC), each year—an ambitious, multi-day event—now in its 19th year—which no one organization acting alone could afford to sponsor. And COSCA has for decades been an active member of The Scottish Coalition, USA (TSCUSA)—a consortium of five other US-based heritage organizations which together originated the idea for the annual National Tartan Day holiday on April 6th of each year and successfully lobbied the U.S. Congress to officially recognize it by Standing Resolution. These key partnering relationships, SNACC and TSCUSA, have proved very valuable for promoting COSCA and our “brand” and will be continued in the coming years.

Two other partnerships in particular have commanded my attention as your President these past six years: The first has been our bilateral relationship with our sister society in Canada—Clans & Scottish Societies of Canada (CASSOC). And the second has been with the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs (SCSC), based in Scotland. We jump-started the relationship with CASSOC five years ago, when the SNACC Conference was held in Ontario, Canada, at the Fergus Highland Games—an event which a number of COSCA officers and Board members attended. On that occasion, a special, closed-door joint planning session was held between COSCA Board members and CASSOC Board members—a get-together which was very productive and resulted in a commitment to do joint event planning when it made sense (like the annual SNACC Conference), and to share information about organizational priorities on an ongoing basis. (This is something I and my Board colleagues and the current CASSOC President, fellow MacGregor William Petrie, and CASSOC Secretary Jo Ann Tuskin, have continued to promote in the years since our caucus at the Fergus Games in 2017.)

The second key bilateral partnering relationship for COSCA has been with the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs (SCSC). In many ways, SCSC is COSCA’s most important partner organization: SCSC represents the chiefs of the historic clans and families in Scotland. And COSCA, through the clan associations and family societies which make up the bulk of our Organizational Members, represents their clan-folk here in the States. The very close working relationship forged between COSCA and my Chief, Sir Malcolm MacGregor, back when he was Convenor of the SCSC, has continued under Sir Malcolm’s successor in that role, Donald Maclaren, Chief of the MacLarens. The frequent visits in recent years to GMHG by various chiefs who have served on the SCSC Executive have strengthened these bonds between COSCA and SCSC and have led to regular communications. One important upshot from the COSCA/ SCSC relationship which is now on the front burner is described below.

Lord Bruce’s request for input from and dialog with COSCA members.

In August I received an email from Lord Charles Bruce, who is a member of the Executive Council at SCSC. (Lord Bruce is the eldest son and heir of the Earl of Elgin, Chief of the Bruces. He was our Keynote Speaker at the SNACC 2020 Conference, where we celebrated the 700th Anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath, signed by his illustrious ancestor, King Robert the Bruce.) Lord Bruce asked my advice, as President of COSCA

“on how the Standing Council should be making the next generation of chiefs better prepared to assume the responsibility for leadership of Scotland’s clans and families. I have been asked by the Convenor and the Executive Council to assemble a sub-committee of heirs and successors with a view to encouraging informed discussion around the subject of family & clan leadership--in its broadest meaning. I would very much like to start this process by looking specifically at the expectations which clan and family associations in North America, and further afield, are likely to place on the ability of chiefs to fulfil a leadership role--i.e. what is expected of us?”

Lord Bruce noted that his deputy on this project will be the young Angus Kinkaid, son and heir to the chiefship of Clan Kincaid. (Young Angus attended GMHG back in 2018 along with his lady mother, Mdm. Arabella Kincaid, Chief of the Kincaids and also a member of the SCSC Executive; she addressed our members at that year’s AGM.) Lord Bruce and Angus, Master of Kincaid, have proposed one or more Zoom conference calls with COSCA representatives to get our views. I proposed an initial Zoom conference with our Board members, followed by a second conference call open to our general membership. To get this process started, I proposed sending a short survey to the COSCA membership, to elicit comments on what American Scots who are active in their clan and family associations need and expect from their chiefs. This will be an exciting opportunity for us in COSCA to give input directly to the chiefs. Lord Bruce is planing on joining us at our AGM on November 13, 2021, at which time he will outline his proposal.

Changing of the Guard at the Scottish Affairs Office, British Embassy.

A few weeks ago, I attended a “farewell reception” for Joni Smith, the Scottish Government’s Consul in the USA, who for the past five years has been stationed here in DC at the Scottish Affairs Office, housed in the British Embassy in Washington, DC. Joni is being reassigned, in the normal course of rotation, to be Deputy Director of Scotland House--the Scottish Government’s E.U. liaison office in Brussels. She’s been a good friend to all of us in the Scottish-American Community and great to work with on heritage events like Tartan Day and Burns Night at venues across the country, on conferences like SNACC, and on special projects like visits by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon to the States. Joni will really be missed by us all. Her replacement, Mr. Chris Tomson, has now arrived stateside and is learning the ropes. Longtime Second Secretary for Scottish Affairs, Rory Hedderly, who is well known to most of us in the Scottish-American Community, will be staying on at the Scottish Affairs Office for another couple of years, so there will be continuity as Mr. Tomson comes up to speed.

Yours aye,

John King Bellassai, JD
President, COSCA
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Chris Tompson and Joni Smith flanking Iain Houston, President, Scottish Business Network.

Goodbye, Joni, & Thanks for all your support. Fair winds for the future. Ed

EVENTS, PUBLICATIONS



UPCOMING WEBINARS

Booking is now open for the following live sessions...

Tall Chimneys: Scotland's industrial giants, 28 October, 6.30pm - [BOOK NOW £10](#)

Royal cousins, rival queens: Mary Queen of Scots and Elizabeth I, 18 November, 6.30pm - [BOOK NOW](#)

Saints in early medieval Scotland, 14 December, 6.30pm - [BOOK NOW £10](#)

Scottish family history month, February 2022 - details coming soon...



Angels over Moscow

Juliette M. Engel, MD, Clan Gregor & COSCA Member

Angels Over Moscow is an inspirational, first-person account of the life of American physician, Dr. Juliette Engel, who founded the non-profit MiraMed Institute to devote her energy and resources to helping reform maternal and infant healthcare in Russia. During a mission to improve medical care for children in orphanages, she discovered a link between the State institutions and an international network that trafficked young Russian girls to Scandinavia for prostitution. She followed their trail north into Norway, where she ran headlong into the international slave trade of the 20th century—human trafficking.

From that point forward, she traveled throughout the former USSR, often at great personal peril, building a network of villagers, educators, police, media, and government officials called the *Angel Coalition*. They committed their talents and resources to fighting human trafficking, and bringing thousands of Russian trafficking victims safely home. Her strength and personal commitment saved thousands of lives and has helped heal the wounds of a broken nation.

In *Angels Over Moscow*, Dr. Engel describes her journey as the “gift of an unexpected life.” More than that, it is a tribute to American ideals, and to idealists like Dr. Engel, who put her life and freedom on the line to fight the good fight for all of us. Every human encounters crossroads on the path of life that require fate-altering decisions with unknowable outcomes. Selling her medical practice

to live and work in Russia wasn’t among her life plans when she first set out to explore what lay beyond the boundaries of her familiar world. How could she anticipate that she would be drawn down the harder, darker, unexplored road into the tumultuous disorder of Russia? *«I look back and wonder if I might have been more cautious had I known the magnitude of the winds that were gathering outside my door».*

It was 1990 when she first flew to Moscow. The Berlin Wall had just been torn down. The Evil Empire capitulated to the forces of greater good. The ideals of democracy and freedom could now be realized for all people. Americans saw only optimism for the future, and it was in that heady atmosphere of the Age of Aquarius that she set out to explore the world behind the Iron Curtain. Did she regret it? No. Her path became a difficult, frustrating and often tragic one, but she was gifted with a rarified view into other dimensions. She was joined by a cast of characters that enriched her life, even if they didn’t have a kopek between them. Is there a takeaway for readers of *Angels Over Moscow*? Absolutely. You cannot anticipate the unexpected. Instead, open your arms. Embrace all that life has to offer. Drink it in. Celebrate every moment. Do not be afraid of tears.



Her books are available, like everything else, on Amazon: *SPARKY - Surviving Sex Magick*, and *Angels over Moscow*.

The ScotlandShop* is coming to Albany, NY

** The ScotlandShop is a COSCA member.*

We have served customers in the US from our base in Duns in the Scottish Borders for 19 years and from our Edinburgh store since 2017. We are very excited to announce that in January 22 we will be opening a store in Albany, capital of New York state. Our appointments page is open. Be one of the first to visit!

You might be wondering why Albany and why open a branch overseas in such uncertain times? We have sold to customers in the US and overseas since Day 1, and both the internet and social media have meant that despite being located in a very rural area in the south of Scotland, we are not limited by the local population in how we can grow our business. The opportunity to reach customers is almost unlimited. In the last 18 months our favourite move has been into video appointments and consultations with customers. Everyone is so used to Zoom now and it is great fun teaching people how to measure and chatting about tartan with someone thousands of miles away, hearing their family stories, and why they are choosing that specific tartan.

However despite all of the above and fabulous e-commerce and video calling, nothing beats face to face as in pre-Covid. To start researching where to have our base in the US we ran pop-up shops and attended Highland Games all over the country. These were well received and the passion from our American customers spurred us on to do mountains of desk research during Covid into key populations with Scottish heritage, locations with historical connections to Scotland. It has been an amazing journey. We have learnt so much and spoken to so many interesting people running Scottish Societies and events. Albany is a great location for accessing the rest of the US and popping over the border into Canada.

We shall run a regular pop-up measuring service in New York once a month, and support lots of events and organisations from our new base. We will also be able to extend our customer service hours and provide you with even more opportunities to chat to our tartan experts, whether you can make it to Albany or not.



Some of you might have already met our Marketing Manager, Emily Redman, who will spearhead the project taking up residence in the States and she can't wait to meet you all. Send her your thoughts and ideas or arrange a call to discuss them - emily@scotlandshop.com.

MacGregor Heraldry

The American Clan Gregor Society (ACGS)

Applies for and Receives A Grant of Corporate Arms from the Lord Lyon

John King Bellassai, JD

Chairman, Heraldry Committee, ACGS

Separate organizationally and legally from its sister society, the Clan Gregor Society, Scotland (which is a British charity, founded in 1822 in Scotland), the American Clan Gregor Society (ACGS) is an American nonprofit organization, incorporated in 1909 in Washington, DC. Both societies are recognized by the Chief of the Name and Arms of MacGregor, currently Major Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor, Bt. (Scots Guards, retired), who is Patron of both societies. The two MacGregor groups work together collaboratively on projects from time to time, but are completely separate organizations, in terms of governance and membership.

About a decade ago, the ACGS applied for and received a grant of corporate arms from the previous Lord Lyon. These are used to the maximum degree by the Society, but always in heraldically correct and tasteful ways. Including the arms on Society “swagger” items is never done without first getting an advisory OK from the Chief, Sir Malcolm. I have chaired the Society’s Heraldry Committee since 2015 or so and also provide advice and guidance to the Society’s Chieftain (president) and Council (elected board members and other officers).

This article describes the process followed by the ACGS when applying for and receiving Scottish arms, and how these arms are routinely used by this large clan society, long-established here in the USA. Unlike its Scotland-based sister society, the ACGS is a genealogy-based organization, where membership requires documented proof of descent from one or more MacGregors born in Scotland who at some point emigrated to America. (For some ACGS members, this was 400 years ago, while for others, like me, it was just a couple of generations ago.) The ACGS membership numbers several hundred, living coast to coast across the USA, though most are clustered in our eastern states, from New England to the Carolinas. And the ACGS has a number of armigers among its members.

Apart from granting arms to individuals of Scottish birth or descent, the Lord Lyon has long granted arms to organizations--both for-profit corporations and nonprofit organizations, including schools, trade associations, charities, and local governing bodies, etc., as well as Scottish heritage promotion organizations (like St. Andrew’s societies). These heritage promotion organizations have also included many clan societies and family associations, when based in Scotland. The Clan



Gregor Society is among these, having received a grant of arms from Lyon Court many years ago.

More recently, Lyon has begun to grant arms to Scottish clan and family societies based outside Scotland—in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the USA. While the first three of these are British Dominions and Lyon’s jurisdiction clearly extends to them, a more expansive reading of the jurisdiction granted to the Lord Lyon, under his enabling statute (the *Lord Lyon Act of 1679*), gives him the authority to grant arms to Scottish heritage organizations in the USA and elsewhere, as well. As a result, a number of U.S.-based clan and family organizations have in recent years applied for and received grants of Scottish arms from the Court of the Lord Lyon.

As is the case with individuals of Scottish birth or descent who seek Scottish arms, the principle of “the arms follow the surname” is applied to these clan societies, too. This means that clan and family society arms must bear some obvious relation to the arms of the chief of that particular name. Legally speaking, these societies are treated as if they were cadet branches of the chief’s line. Just as for individuals, this typically means that various “differencing marks”—minor charges, borders around the arms, and/or a change in tinctures (colors)—are used to distinguish these subordinate arms from those of the chief of that name, who bears what are called under heraldic law the “undifferenced” arms.



If we look at the arms of the Clan Gregor Society, Scotland, we see this process in action: The shield bears the uprooted oak tree, crossed in saltire with the broadsword, on the tip of which is an old-fashioned royal crown—charges taken directly from the arms of the Chief of the Name of MacGregor. But for difference, the Clan Gregor Society’s arms also bear two interlaced rings, above the crossed oak and broadsword, and an open book beneath them. Atop the helmet in the Clan Gregor Society’s arms appears as a crest a golden lion’s head, crowned—identical to the crest in the Chief’s arms. But in the case of the Clan Gregor Society, there is a chain around the neck of the lion’s head crest—showing subservience and “belonging” (in this case, to the family of the Chief).

All MacGregors, regardless of surname, who are members of the Clan Gregor (whether members of the clan society or not) are entitled to wear a “strap & buckle” cap badge which includes at its center the Chief’s crest (the lion’s head, crowned) and around the strap, the Chief’s motto (*‘s rioghal mo dhream*—“royal is my race”—a reference to their claimed descent from a son of Kenneth MacAlpin, King of Picts & Scots, back in the mid-800’s). MacGregors in America as well as in Scotland typically wear this cap badge, which requires no permission for members of the clan to wear it, but does amount to an expression of loyalty to the Chief (though no longer fealty, as in the old days).



Having no official coat of arms through most of its history, the American Clan Gregor Society used the strap & buckle badge, available to all MacGregors, as its logo. This appeared on the Society’s stationary, clan memorabilia (“swag”), and other items over many decades. The Society also used it on its parade banner—a length of MacGregor tartan cloth with the clan strap & buckle badge superimposed on it.



The Chief’s crest, within the strap & buckle and having his slogan, or war cry (*Ard Choille*—“the high wood”) at the fly, appears on a small, official white flag called a “pinsel.” The pinsel represents a clan chief in his absence and can be carried, or displayed, only



by the chief's official representative. The ACGS is proud that the Chief of Clan Gregor has designated the ACGS to act as his authorized representative in America - permitted to fly the Chief's pinsel, in his absence, at highland games, clan society gatherings, and other official events.

More recently, about a decade ago, the then Chairman of the ACGS Heraldry Committee, Mr. Ian Greig, convinced the Society's board of director (called the Council) and its president (called the Chieftain) to petition Lyon Court for a grant of arms, as its sister society, the Clan Gregor Society, Scotland, had done many years prior. Himself an armiger and member of the Society of Scottish Armigers, Mr. Greig was familiar with the legal process for petitioning for a grant of Scottish arms and spearheaded this effort on behalf of the ACGS. In due course, arms were awarded to the Society.

The arms granted by Lyon to the ACGS created a bit of a stir in the ranks of the Society and among its officers and Council members when first received because they employed a motif not previously associated with Clan Gregor—a ship under sail. Though a familiar “charge” in Scots heraldry, the galley, or *lymphad*, was primarily associated with the seagoing “island clans” historically resident on the West Coast of Scotland—the MacDonalds, MacLeans, and other Hebridean clans. The new

ACGS arms depicted a ship under sail (the Scottish saltier pennon visible on the masthead), riding the waves, with the arms of the Chief of Clan Gregor on the sail—so clearly it is not only a Scottish ship, but a MacGregor ship. A sea-going vessel was chosen by Lyon as appropriate to represent a society of ethnic MacGregors who had emigrated by sea to the New World.

The crest atop the helmet in the new ACGS grant of arms is the same as in the arms of the Chief—a golden lion's head, crowned. But as in the arms of the Clan Gregor Society, Scotland, the lion wears a chain around its neck, symbolic of subservience and belonging to the Chief of the Clan. And the motto granted the ACGS by Lyon is identical to that used in the arms of the Chief of Clan Gregor for many centuries ('s-rioghal mo dhream).

A full heraldic “achievement” (i.e., the shield with the helmet and crest atop it and the motto scroll above or beneath) is always a busy affair. So since the Middle Ages, the practice has grown up of using the shield of arms alone for many “everyday” purposes. Called “the small arms,” the shield alone, containing the hereditary bearings, is the essence of the achievement—easy to display and quickly recognizable.

Heraldic practice, not only in Scotland but throughout Europe, has long been to use the small arms alone on banners and flags—again, for ease of display and quick recognition from a distance. Accordingly, the ACGS commissioned a large parade banner plus many smaller tent banners bearing only the arms from the shield—a MacGregor ship in full sail, riding the waves, with the Chief's arms on the sail and the Scottish saltier pennon at the masthead. The tent banners are flown from Clan Society tents at Scottish highland games around the country.



In addition, the ACGS uses the Society's small arms on many items where the full achievement would be overwhelming--such as stationery and swag items like mugs, shirts, pillows, and the like. Superimposed on a simple golden circlet bearing the name of the Society and its date of incorporation (1909), this makes a tasteful and simple display and is widely used by the Society for official purposes—in particular, a new ACGS Membership Pin.



on clan and family association events to be held in the future in Scotland or the States, not ones that have already occurred. Best practices by clan societies will also be highlighted which might be useful to our members.

Two of these six bimonthly editions of *The Claymore* will continue to be themed, and contain far more material. These two semi-annual issues will be *Claymore Special Editions (SE)*--commencing with this October edition. They will keep the longer and more inclusive format, with lots of illustrations, guest articles, etc.

These shorter bimonthly editions will be an experiment. It can only succeed if you, our members, support it and actively contribute content. Article solicitation, layout, editing, and production have always been done entirely by volunteer members, and this will continue. But we will need your input on an ongoing basis for interesting and timely content. One approach for you to take might be to spend put together a calendar of events for your clan or family association and send it to us for publication. Same thing for short writeups on best practices—things that have worked well for your clan society and which could be adapted by others. We will then package these inputs into newsletter form and distribute them to the entire membership, every other month. Send your comments and suggestions directly to me, Bruce MacGregor. Whyte, your [Editor](#).

This edition of *The Claymore* is dedicated to the topic of Scots heraldry—coats of arms, crests, mottos and banners-- what they mean, the rules relating to their usage, and more. To introduce this subject, we have a short piece from Dr. Joseph Morrow, the current Lord Lyon King of Arms—Scotland's official authority on the subject. This is followed by other pieces by various contributing authors, each addressing various aspects of the subject of Scots heraldry. We hope you will enjoy reading about this very interesting subject of great importance to all Scottish heritage organizations.

Bruce MacGregor Whyte, MD
Editor, *The Claymore*
coscaeditor@gmail.com

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

The Honorable William Napier, Master of Napier

10th June, 1996 - 28th August, 2021



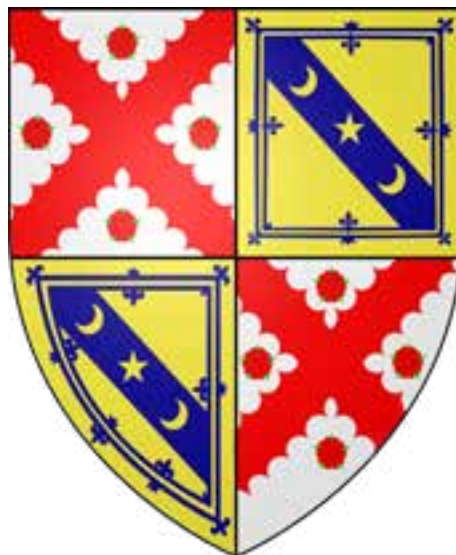
The Late William Alexander Hugh Napier; The Right Honorable Sir Francis David Charles Napier, Lord Napier; Sophie Eleanor Rose Napier, Mistress of Napier, and Mdm Napier, Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, 2018.

The Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs is very sad to let you know that Francis Napier's son and heir, the Hon. William Alexander Hugh,

Master of Napier, died on the 28th August at the age of 25 after an extended illness. William's title is to be devolved on Francis's daughter, Sophie, as The Mistress of Napier. She is therefore the future 16th Baroness Napier and Chief.

Donald MacLaren, Convenor, Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs.

COSCA joins the Standing Council in expressing our deep regrets for the recent passing of the Honorable William Alexander Hugh Napier, particularly at such young age.



FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

Sir William Alan Macpherson of Cluny 27th Chief of Macpherson

April 1, 1926 – February 14, 2021

He was commissioned in the Scots Guards in 1944 and trained with 21 SAS – of whom he was made honorary colonel in 1983. Like his Jacobite ancestor Cluny Macpherson in the Rising of 1745, Sir William Macpherson of Cluny led from the front. As clan chief, soldier, lawyer, judge, his trademarks proved to be personal courage and independent judgement.

He needed both when in 1997 the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, asked him to lead the inquiry into the racially motivated death of Stephen Lawrence. He was a judge of the High Court of England and Wales, served as presiding judge of the Northern Circuit, and had practised as Queen's Counsel in London. Genealogist, historian and heraldist besides a patron of the 1745 Association, he was "a generous donor over decades to the Royal Celtic Society", said Dr Alan Hay, chairman of the society.

Sir William succeeded as 27th chief of Macpherson in 1969. "Cluny" to his clansfolk, he led the annual march of his clan at the Newtonmore Games, entering the field to the strains of Macpherson's Rant. Keen on pipe music, he had been played out on retirement from the Royal Courts of Justice to the tune "Mrs Macpherson of Inveran".

As fastidious in genealogy and heraldry as he was in law, Sir William kept clan papers filed at home in acid-free boxes in a purpose-built study and gallery, the walls of which are covered in. In a corner, his bonnet with three chiefly feathers rested on a stuffed wildcat in rampant pose, the Macpherson crest. His Blairgowrie castle has been home to Macphersons since 1787.

Sir William eschewed being a patriarchal figure to his clan, referring to his position simply as "first among equals". Leading 150 clansfolk on to Edinburgh Castle Esplanade at the Tattoo in August 2017 he turned down an invitation to sit in the Royal box, saying, "Thank you, but I shall sit among my people". He was hooker for the London Scottish rugby team, an avid golfer, loved piping all the time leading his distinguished career. He is survived by his daughter Annie, son Jamie (who has succeeded him as the 28th chief to the clan Macpherson), and



FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

Aeneas Ranald Euan MacDonnell 23rd Chief of Glengarry

November 11, 1941 – January 30, 2021

Ranald MacDonnell, who died January 30, 2021, became 23rd Chief of Glengarry in 1999. He was known to his family as Ranald – and in Scottish clan circles as Glengarry.

He was a true gentleman and with a beaming smile and a positive, cheerful manner. Never claiming to be a true Scot, having lived most of his life in Southern England, he valued his Scottish heritage, loved Scotland and was proud to represent his clan, whilst still considering himself British and a European. His warmth and generosity touched many.

He spent a year improving his German in Tübingen and then went to read Modern Languages at St John's College Cambridge, where he rowed for the Lady Margaret Boat Club.

In 1964 he joined the London and Scandinavian Metallurgical Company (LSM), now AMG Superalloys UK. He was a director from 1987 until his retirement in 2001 and from 1997 to 2000 he was also president of Euroalliances.

On becoming Chief of Glengarry, Ranald succeeded his father as an hereditary trustee of the Clan Donald Lands Trust, the Scottish registered charity that manages Armadale Castle, Gardens and Museum of the Isles and its 20,000-acre estate, and contributed to the updating of its constitution. Ranald's exceptional kindness was evident too in his involvement with Clan Donald. It was in 1999, when his father died, that Ranald became 23rd Chief of Glengarry. He succeeded in the chiefship as 24th of Glengarry by his younger brother Patrick, a science graduate who lives in Yukon, Canada.



Chiefs, Templars and the Dean

A Tale of the Dalmally Stones By Keith MacGregor Part 2 of 3

The inspiration which launches an important project can sometimes come from unexpected, if serendipitous, places. Such was the case in 1998, when Dr. Richard McGregor, Chairman of the Clan Gregor Society of Scotland, and Keith MacGregor, North American Representative for the Society, came upon the Brydale papers, a set of traveler's notes and sketches by Thomas Brydale, buried deep in the Scottish archives. A popular form of writing in the 17th and 18th centuries, these pictorial travel guides were a welcome supplement to the Statistical Reports published by parish ministers every 100 years or so, and the Old Parish Records (OPRs), the local birth-marriage-death records kept by the diligence of the minister or a scribe, and displaying a with a wide range of depth and accuracy.

Major MacLulich 1886

The following tales have been handed down regarding Clachan Dysart and if not already known may be of interest to you. They are not written tales but verbal. From my great-grandfather who was a boy of 13 in 1810 is the story of bones unearthed. "In the levelling of the site of the new church in the earth, human bones were uncovered. Legend states that the site of the church and part of its immediate neighbourhood was the burial ground of clansmen of Clan MacGregor and the site from which the bones came was a mass burial of clansmen killed in a 16th century battle with the Campbells."

Major MacLulich's full letter is available among the correspondence of the Association.

While visiting Dalmally kirkyard in Argyll, Brydale records a number of medieval slab-stones, all lying in the churchyard. This report deals with seven (7) medieval stones located there which were found to relate to the Clan Gregor—medieval residents of the area. Most importantly for us, and by extension all MacGregors, was our extreme good fortune in possessing *The Book of the Dean of Lismore*, compiled by the Clan's own James MacGregor, Dean of Lismore and notary for many of the families of Argyll, including the Campbells, during the 16th century. The various parts of this collection include a number of early bardic poems from the oral tradition, biographical material on various clan chiefs, and the Obituaries, which describe the dates and burial rites for MacGregor chiefs, circa 1390 -1529. These sources became the original basis for the Dalmally Stones Project, carried out by the Clan Gregor Society through contributions from American and Scottish donors, which allowed us to begin explorations in Dalmally kirkyard. This paper outlines that 20-year effort.

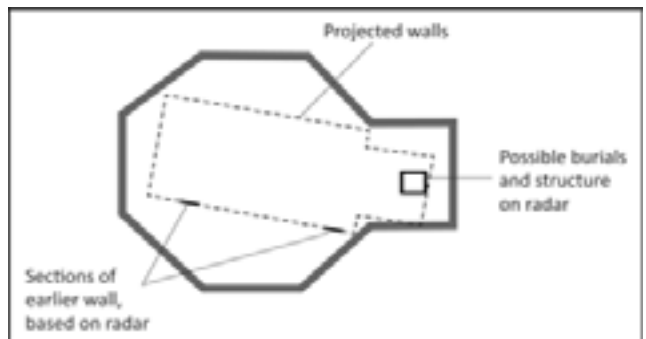


Our "eureka" moment came upon completing the GPR scanning of both the church and the eastern entranceway. Segments of broken walls from what would be the first, medieval church became evident. This smaller, rectangular building (below) is a twin for Craignish, another medieval structure built at the same period, and which is still standing. The raised stone coffins there on either side of the altar echo a close match for the Dean's description of Dalmally.



In 2012, a GPR survey of the foyer area and part of the church sanctuary revealed what was interpreted to be the outline of the Medieval church (O'Grady 2012)

The following is an excerpt from the Clan Gregor Society's newsletter back then: "Dalmally, Argyllshire/23-27 July, 2012: 'For five damp but exciting days in July, 2012, the Clan Gregor Society of Scotland succeeded in carrying out an extensive archaeological survey in Dalmally glen, Argyllshire. After several years of research, Keith and Richard believe they have identified the *in-situ* locations of our Chief's carved stone monuments, described by James MacGregor, Dean of Lismore, in the early 16th century, only to realize they merited special attention – a very



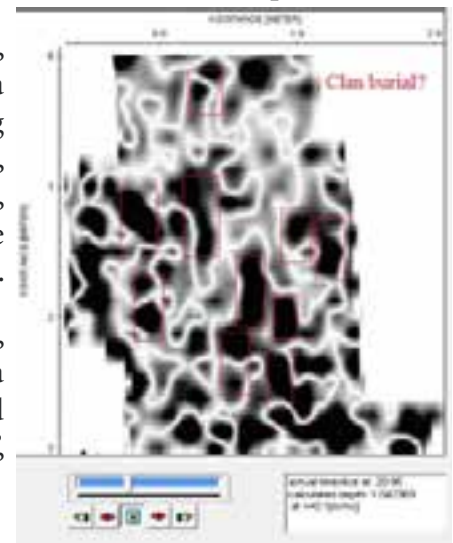
Page from Dean's manuscript

"down to earth" kind of attention.

Partnering with Glasgow University specialist Gavin MacGregor and his new venture, Northlight Heritage, we opted to carry out archaeological surveys using ground-penetrating radar (GPR) and magnetic gradiometers to, in effect, map the entire church floor, which included the eastern entranceway and the interior. It's important to note the Dean may have known some of these Chiefs in his lifetime. More importantly, the Book of the Dean of Lismore, is one of the earliest collections of medieval records, poems from the oral bardic tradition, and obituaries, which described the burials of the Chiefs of Clan Gregor within the church, circa 1390 – 1528. It is considered a gem of medieval literature which is still preserved.

Before an archaeological survey begins, recording the Global Satellite Coordinates (GPS) in order to map out a topographical "grid" of the church and the surrounding area, including the east-west alignment of the foundations, is required. Our goal, among other things, was to provide the Scottish government, RCAHMS, and Historic Environment Scotland with data to be included on the national archaeological grid for use by future generations of researchers.

By way of background, the Reformation in Scotland, under John Knox, was particularly cruel in the Highlands, where religion-as-politics played a convenient role in harrying the Highland clans, many of whom remained Catholic. In 1560, the Campbells announced their Calvinist "conversion",



GPR Timeslice-Entrance to church (area under tower). North is to the right. The front door (East) is at the bottom of the picture

1519, May 24-26 Death of John dhu Macgregor of Glenstray, son of Patrick, at Stronmallochane, on the 24th of May; he was buried in Dysart, north of the Great Alter, in a stone coffin, upon the 26th of May, in the year 1519; on which day a great meteor was seen in the Glenurquhay. Dominical letter B.

1526, January Death of Malcolm Macwilliam, in the month of January, in the year 1526; he was buried in Skenevo.
-- July 31 Death of Gregor, son of John Macgregor, alias McEwine McAllister, of Glenstray, at the Isle of Lochrannoch; he was buried in Dysart, in a stone coffin, on the north side of the High Alter of Glenstray, on the last day of July, in the year 1526. Dominical letter G. May his soul rest in peace.

which practically overnight became their new excuse for destruction as well as acquisition of lands, under Argyll's guise as Lieutenant-General of Scotland. This was especially true for the MacGregors, who had by then been dispossessed of their lands by the Campbells, but who, rather than submit, chose to engage

the Campbells in a long and bloody struggle which became what the Campbells themselves called The MacGregor Wars.

In Dalmally Kirk, as in kirks in numerous Argyll and Perthshire glens, the location of the traditional eastern placement of the high altar in pre-Reformation churches was, after the Reformation, symbolically moved from the eastern to the western end—in order to signify the new religion. Burials on the altar and within the church, including raised coffins on/near the altar, as had long been the practice for highborn men, were henceforth forbidden. Medieval, pre-Reformation altars, now viewed as heretical, were often buried where they stood, in order to erase the past. Black Duncan Campbell, Earl of Argyll, rebuilt Dalmally Kirk in 1615 and ordered the MacGregor stones to be tossed out of the building and into the kirkyard—where they lay, neglected, for centuries to come, sinking into the sod and eventually disappearing from view. Others were simply buried along with the original high altar. Knowing this to be the fate of the high altar at this location, it only served to redouble our efforts to trace the fate of our Chiefs and of their carved grave monuments. Little by little, the pieces began to emerge during years of searching the Scottish Records Office, the NAS, local histories, and the National Library, with the goal of identifying, as much as possible, the *in situ* locations, as recorded by James MacGregor, Dean of Lismore, of those burials and the stones placed there over them some 500 years ago.

For further inquiries, please contact Keith MacGregor at kmac1@optonline.net.





Council of Scottish Clans and Associations, Inc.

"Service, Education & Advocacy in support of the Scottish American Ancestral Diaspora"

Herbert MacNeal and volunteers founded COSCA for the purpose of supporting Scottish Clan organizations and preserving Scottish heritage.

COSCA's founding statement of charter and mission continues today as our current Trustees, members and volunteers continue to work towards the goals of:

- Strengthening the Scottish American community by bringing individuals together with their Scottish Clans and Associations;
- Supporting our member Scottish organizations with training and resources to help them meet their own goals;
- Providing education and learning opportunities in Scottish fields;
- Building relationships with Scotland and the global diaspora.

COSCA is not chartered to nor interested in assuming management of individual societies. This newsletter does not accept any responsibility for the opinions expressed within, nor does it restrict the reasonable opinions of other groups.

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