



# CLAYMORE

The Newsletter of the Council of Scottish Clans and Associations

Fall Edition November 2023 Mike McIntyre

Honorary Doctor of Laws



Left side from the top:

King Charles III, Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury & Penny Mordaunt, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons carrying the Sword of State

King Charles III and the Lord Lyon on the procession leaving Westminster Abbey after the coronation

King Charles III accepting the Honours of Scotland: the Crown, the Sceptre, and the Sword of State

Investiture of the Lord Lyon, as a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, on the 8th November in the Throne Room of Buckingham Palace by King Charles III

Review of the Royal Archer Guards at Edinburgh by King Charles III



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# KING CHARLES III



The Jewelled Sword of Offering carried by the Lord President of the Privy Council Penny Mordaunt, at the coronation



The Sovereign's Sceptre with Cross is 3 feet long, weighs around 2.6 lb, and is decorated with 333 diamonds, 31 rubies, 15 emeralds, 7 sapphires, 6 spinels, and 1 composite amethyst. In 1910, it was redesigned to incorporate the Cullinan I diamond, also known as the Great Star of Africa, which, at over 530 carats (106 g), is the largest clear cut diamond in the world.



# The Chief of Clan Scott, Duke of Buccleuch and Queensferry

played a major role in the coronation of King Charles III. As the Captain-General of the Royal Company of Archers, a position the Duke has held since 2014, he performed duties in the preparation for the coronation. The Royal Company of Archers are the ceremonial unit that serves as the Sovereign's bodyguard in Scotland. During the services for Queen Elizabeth the Royal Company, in their distinctive green uniforms, designed by Sir Walter Scott, were very visible in both Edinburgh and London.

In preparation for the coronation of King Charles III the Stone of Scone (also known as the Stone of Destiny) had to be moved from Edinburgh Castle to Westminster Abbey where it was placed under the throne on which Charles was crowned. An entire book can be written about the Stone, it was originally used in the coronation of Scottish monarchs, but was seized by Edward I in 1296 and taken to London where it was used for the coronation of the English and then the British monarchs. Finally in 1996, the Stone was permanently restored to Scotland and resides in Edinburgh Castle, but with the condition that it would be taken to London for future coronation ceremonies and then returned. The Royal Company, led by our Clan Scott Chief, was part of the entourage that carried out the transfer of the Stone of Scone for King Charles' coronation.

The Royal Company, led by our Clan Scott Chief, was part of the entourage that carried out the transfer of the Stone of Scone for King Charles' coronation.

The Clan Scott Chief carried out these duties at the coronation despite the tragic passing of his wife, the Duchess of Buccleuch earlier in the week (see her obituary on page 9).

*Submitted by the Clan Scott Society*



# Mackays from across the world converge on Bettyhill for inauguration of new clan chief

(Taken from a news post by Caroline McMorran, of H. N. Media Company, UK.)



**The new Clan Chief, seated for the ancient ceremonial inauguration**

An event of huge importance to members of the Clan Mackay worldwide took place in the far north Sutherland in August. The new chief of the Clan Mackay was inaugurated, through presentation of a staff, at a centuries-old ceremony in the newly refurbished Strathnaver Museum in Bettyhill on Saturday, August 19.



The event was delayed due to Storm Betty that dumped high winds and torrential downpours across the highlands. More than 200 people, from a number of different countries attended the inauguration with other clan chiefs present as well as representatives from Clan Mackay societies in Canada, USA and Germany as well as Scotland.

The ceremony, which lasted over an hour, followed age-old tradition. It involved a religious blessing, poetry, readings from ancient documents relating to the Clan Mackay and Mackay County, a recitation of the new chief's lineage and the presentation of a dirk, staff and seal to the chief.

Events began with Local piper Carol Anne Farquhar heading a procession of dignitaries who made their way from the road, up to the museum and round the site to the Farr Stone, where the ceremony was conducted outdoors and where a crowd had assembled. The chief's Clan Mackay drummers participated in the walk and the ceremony. Clansmen pledged their allegiance to the chief and drew out their Highland dress daggers to demonstrate their willingness to protect him.

Aeneas Simon Mackay, 15th Lord Reay, a corporate financier who sits as a Conservative member of the House of Lords, was officially installed as the 29th chief of the Clan Mackay. He succeeds his father, the late Sir William Hugh Mackay, 14th Lord Reay

**Aeneas Simon Mackay, 15th Lord Reay, Baron Mackay** - born 20 March 1965, an hereditary Scottish peer and Dutch nobleman, is a British corporate financier who is also hereditary Clan Chief of Clan Mackay. In the Netherlands, he is Lord of Ophemert and Zennewijnen, with a castle at Ophemert.

Lord Reay is married to Mia, The Lady Reay, and has three children, Alexander, Master of Reay, Iona and Harry. The family divides its time mostly between London, Lancashire and Finland.

Lord Reay was educated at Westminster School and then Brown University in the United States. Since graduating,



**Mackay Clan drummers at the inauguration**

Lord Reay has been involved in finance, working for investment banks both in London and New York. In 1992, he founded Montrose Partners, the corporate finance advisory boutique and since then has assisted growth companies to raise finance.

Lord Reay was admitted to the House of Lords in January 2019, after winning a hereditary peers' by-election. He sits as a Conservative member of the House, and is a member of Lloyd's.

The newly installed Chief's seanchaidh led the ceremony, which included the participation of the Lord Lieutenant of Sutherland and the High Chief of Clan Donald.

Lord Reay has a keen interest in politics and is currently a seated member of the House of Lords. He loves delving into books as well as spending time with his family.

Clansmen walking to the museum, upper left, waiting for the ceremony lower left, the North American Society pledging their allegiance to the new Chief, top right, Mackay coat of arms and the Clan Chief and his wife, center



# OBITUARIES

## *Donald, the Maclaren of Maclaren and Achleskine*

Clan chief who bussed across America to visit Maclaren relatives, served as a diplomat in Moscow and Kyiv, and knew his family lore by heart

A mermaid once lived in a loch in the heart of Alba. She watched the sun rise over the back of Ben Vorlich and saw it set behind the great hills that lie between Strathearn and Lorn. One day she fell in love with a mortal man and from their union sprang the progenitor of the Maclarens.



*MacLaren on the banks of Loch Voil where the family legend began*

Donald, the Maclaren of Maclaren and Achleskine, stood by Loch Voil where the mermaid once lived, on the edge of the village of Balquhidder, reciting the legend from memory. It had been a comfort to the little boy who became 25th chief of Clan Maclaren at the age of only 11 and was a comfort again during a career in the diplomatic service, often living thousands of miles away.

Clan Maclaren (or Labhran) has occupied lands in Balquhidder and Strathearn since the 12th century. They fought at Flodden in 1513 and suffered with the Jacobites at Culloden in 1746. But Maclaren, who claimed to be a distant cousin of Queen Elizabeth, saw the clan as a way to keep in touch with his kinsmen. "It's not about cattle raiding or turning out to die gloriously in a hopeless cause, but about a family network that stretches around the world," he said.

*Maclaren took part in clan activities worldwide and gave Maclarens from overseas a warm welcome to Scotland*



It might not sound very Braveheart. Indeed, beneath the surface old enmities rumbled on. In 2009 Maclaren became embroiled in a dispute with Clan Gregor (or MacGregor) over the burial place of the folk hero [Rob Roy MacGregor](#), calling for the outlaw's remains to be disinterred from a kirkyard near his home to test their authenticity. The Clan Gregor Society vowed to resist. "How would they feel if we suggested digging up the Maclaren graves?" they demanded.

Maclaren represented his clan at gatherings worldwide. He was also a focal point for the diaspora's pilgrimages to their ancestral land, welcoming Maclarens who turned up at his farm gate from as far afield as Australia and America. "Total strangers," he said. "But it was as if we knew each other. We were meeting because we are family. There is a responsibility to be hospitable. It is my job to welcome them in because this is their place." Donald Maclaren of Maclaren was born in 1954, the only son of Major Donald Maclaren of Maclaren, who studied to be a chartered accountant at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, and his wife Margaret (née Miller). He was descended from Lorn Mor, the 5th-century king of Dál Riata.

During the war his father served with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders and was head of economic counterintelligence attached to General Eisenhower's staff. He started the Clan Maclaren Society, which has spawned societies in more than a dozen countries, in 1962 but died four years later aged 55.

Young Donald was educated at the Dragon School, Oxford, and Trinity College, Glenalmond (now Glenalmond College), where he learnt to play the pipes. At 18 he was formally installed as 25th chief of the clan, its affairs having been administered during his minority by Janet Maclaren, a clan tutor.



Maclaren was always impressed by the strong feeling of family among those who share the surname

Shortly afterwards he took a Greyhound bus tour through Canada and the US, staying with Maclaren families along the way. "It was quite heart-pounding," he recalled in a 2007 American gathering of the clans. "I was made so very aware how strong the feeling was among the family, how proud that they were Maclarens, and they were very hospitable to me as a young chief."

Returning to Scotland he read classics and English at the University of Edinburgh



*Maclaren in the landscape that his family have enjoyed for more than 1,500 years.*

and played rugby for the combined Scottish Universities XV. In 1978 he joined the Foreign Office, serving with the British military government in Berlin. That same year he married Maida Aitchison. They had five children: Donald, who served with the British forces in Iraq and Afghanistan; Florian, who becomes clan chief; Louis, who served in the Scots Guards before transferring to the Scots Guards; and Iona and Marina.

Before leaving Berlin in 1983, Maclaren attended a rather torturous Victorian evening at the British Officers' Club. Towards the end he quietly excused himself, reappearing a few minutes later dressed in a grubby raincoat and trilby with a "press" ticket stuck in the hatband, a nod to his new posting as press attaché in Moscow. There his unusual title, the Maclaren of Maclaren, proved complicated and fellow diplomats told of receiving calls from the Soviet foreign ministry along the lines of: "This is the Ivanov of Ivanov speaking."

*John Kirby, The Times, Obituaries, July 31, 2023*

## *Wonderful' Duchess of Buccleuch dies after short illness*

She was born Lady Elizabeth Kerr

By Alison Bagley

Published 2nd May 2023, 13:27 BST-

Tributes have been paid to The Duchess of Buccleuch and Queensberry who has died after a short illness on Sunday, April 30.

Her husband Richard, the 10th Duke of Buccleuch, and his family announced the duchess' death with 'great sadness' – she was 68-years-old.

Mother-of-four and grandmother to 11, she was born Lady Elizabeth Kerr, her father was the 12th Marquess of Lothian with deep roots in Scotland.

Benny Higgins, executive chairman of Buccleuch, said: "The Duke of Buccleuch and his family have announced that, very sadly, on Sunday morning the Duchess died after a short illness following an operation.

"The Duchess was the most wonderful, life enhancing spirit and our hearts go out to the family as they come to terms with their loss."



A statement from the family said: “The Duke of Buccleuch and his family with great sadness announce the death of the Duchess of Buccleuch and Queensberry.”

After graduating from the London School of Economics, with a BSc in Sociology, she worked for BBC Radio 4’s Kaleidoscope programme and then, after her marriage in 1981, for the newly established local BBC radio station, Radio Solway, in Dumfriesshire.

She was inspired to found the Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction, a leading literary award in the UK for which she was a judge.

Her vision led to the establishment in 2015 of the Young Walter Scott Prize to encourage young people to explore both history and writing. The Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch were patrons of the prize.

The Duchess was also involved in many cultural organisations, as chairman of Scottish Ballet and the Heritage Education Trust, as a trustee of the National Museums of Scotland and subsequently a Trustee of the British Museum.

As well as owning Boughton House and its estate near Kettering, the couple also owned Drumlanrig Castle, Dalkeith Palace, Eildon Hall in the Scottish Borders and Bowhill House.

She is survived by her husband, Richard, their four children and 11 grandchildren. There will be a private family funeral service in the Borders and a service to celebrate her life will be announced in due course.

*The Duke of Buccleuch is the Chief of Clan Scott.*

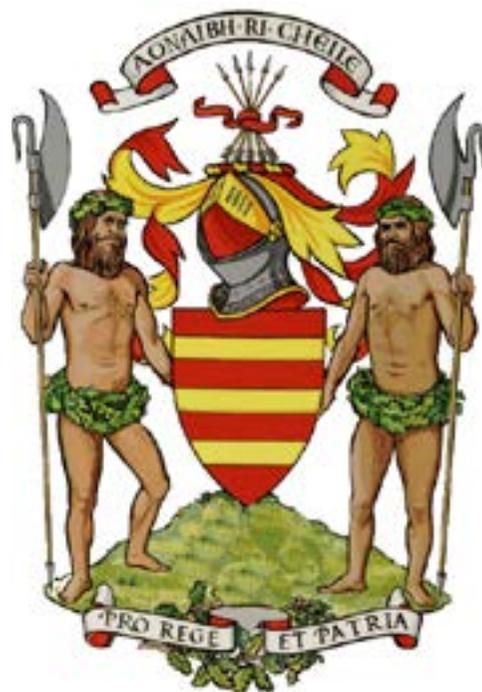
## *Donald Angus Cameron of Lochiel*

**Donald Angus Cameron of Lochiel**, CVO, DL (2 August 1946 – 20 October 2023) was the 27th Lochiel (Chief) of Clan Cameron. He served as honorary Lord Lieutenant of Inverness from 2002 to 2021. Cameron was the eldest son of four children born to Sir Donald Hamish Cameron, 26th Lochiel KT, and his wife Margot Gathorne-Hardy. He was educated at Harrow, and went on to read history at Christ Church, Oxford (MA).

Lochiel was disabled, suffering from Multiple sclerosis. He died on 20 October 2023, aged 77, at his residence of Achnacarry, and was succeeded as Chief of Clan Cameron by his son, the Rt Hon. Donald Cameron (b. 1976), Conservative Member of the Scottish Parliament, who is married to Sarah MacIay, scion of the Barons MacIay,

In 1966, Donald Cameron had been commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Queen’s Own Cameron Highlanders. He left the army in 1968 and trained as a chartered accountant (FCA, 1971). On 1 June 1974 at St. Mary’s Cathedral, Edinburgh, he married Lady Cecil Nennella Therese Kerr, OBE, daughter of Peter Kerr, 12th Marquess of Lothian, by his wife Antonella Newland. They had four children.

In 1983, Prince Naruhito (present Emperor of Japan) stayed at Achnacarry Castle during an expedition to climb Ben Nevis, hosted by Lochiel. Upon the death of his father in 2004, he assumed the chiefship of Clan Cameron, becoming the 27th Lochiel. Between 1994 and 1996, he served as president of the Highland Society of London. In 1986, he was appointed a Deputy lieutenant of Inverness-shire, and later served as the Lord Lieutenant of Inverness-shire from 2002 until 2021. In 2017, he was appointed a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.



# PRESIDENT'S LETTER



This issue of *The Claymore* is dominated by news about clan chiefs—from news about the Heirs Project, an initiative of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs (SCSC); to chiefs departing the scene (Donald Maclaren, who passed away suddenly back in August, and Donald Cameron of Locheil, who passed away in October); to chiefs arriving on the scene (Aeneas Mackay, Lord Reay installed in August as the new Chief of the Mackays, and Sir Malcolm MacGregor re-assuming the role of Convenor of the Standing Council in September); to a Chief playing a prominent role in the recent coronation of HM King Charles (Richard, Duke of Buccleuch, Chief of the Scotts, carrying the royal scepter in the procession at Westminster Abbey). I highly recommend to each of you, our readers, the very interesting articles included here about each of these chiefs. The interface between the Standing

Council, representing the chiefs in Scotland, and our organization, representing as we do their clan and family kindred here in the States, has been and remains a strong one. More about several joint SCSC/ COSCA initiatives elsewhere in this newsletter.

**League of the South.** You may have read a column in *The Scotsman* back in the summer, alerting their readers to what they termed an effort by an American far-right organization called the League of the South to “highjack” Scotland’s national flag, the saltire, and to present themselves at various highland games events here in the USA as a *bona fide* Scottish heritage organization. While the concerns in the article were genuine, they were also somewhat overstated: The flag of the League of the South has for many years been a black saltire on a white field, not Scotland’s white saltire on blue, so the group has not “highjacked” Scotland’s national flag. (Actually, those are the arms of the Chief of the Maxwells, who certainly has cause for distress at his arms being so misused.) Still, the fact remains that the League of the South, founded in 1994, is not a Scottish heritage organization at all, but rather a white supremacist group which advocates, among other things, political secession of the Southern States from the Union (something that was tried unsuccessfully and put to rest in 1865), as well as so-called “cultural secession” that tries to turn us as a Nation away from multiculturalism and tolerance. The League of the South has also been involved over the years in a number of violent incidents, including the infamous Unite the Right riot in Charlottesville, VA, back in 2017, that resulted in a fatality. Be advised that the League of the South has not presented itself to join COSCA nor, if they ever do, will they be accepted for membership.



**Regional Commissioners.** COSCA is fortunate to have the services of three very energetic Regional Commissioners—Lois Ann Garlitz in the Far West, Ethan MacDonald in the Upper Midwest, and Lewis Johnson in the South-Eastern States—whose job it is to promote our organization as Scottish heritage events in their respective geographic areas, and in the process to actively recruit new members. We are actively looking for additional Regional Commissioners to represent COSCA out on the West Coast, in the Southwest, and in the Northeast. If you have an outgoing personality, enjoy a sales & marketing challenge, and want to take a high profile representing COSCA in your part of the country, please get in touch with me directly, on next page.

**Annual General Meeting (AGM).** COSCA’s annual General Meeting (AGM) will once again be held remotely this year, via Zoom. The date and time was announced in a previous email to the membership, remains Sunday, 10 December, at 3:00PM (Eastern Standard time). A link will be sent out a few days before the AGM by our Secretary, Charlie Sherwood, (918) 809-4006, or by email at [tulsaecxile@yahoo.com](mailto:tulsaecxile@yahoo.com). to all members-in-good-standing of COSCA. For those of you who are Organizational Members, please remember to contact Charlie in advance to designate the Single Point of Contact (SPC) who will cast your group’s votes at the AGM. . That said, *ALL* members of any Organizational Member of COSCA are invited—encouraged—to join the Zoom meeting. So when you receive the Zoom link from Charlie, please pass it on to all your members.

Note all the Officers and several of our at-Large Board members are up for reelection this year, and all incumbents can stand for reelection. Charlie Sherwood has been named by me as President to chair the Nominating Committee for 2023; they will present their slate at the AGM. No petitions from the membership nominating any other candidates for office as of this date have been received by the Secretary. (Note any such nominations must be signed by at least five members in good standing and received by the Secretary no later

than five days in advance of the meeting.)

**Membership Growth.** COSCA has experienced significant membership growth over the past two years, thanks to the energetic efforts of several of our Board members, most notably our Strategic Planning Chair, John Cochran, our Communications Chair, Bart Forbes, and our Membership Chair, Scott Swann—as well as our new cadre of Regional Commissioners (Lois Ann Garlitz, Ethan MacDonald, and Lewis Johnson). Membership is now pushing 300—the highest it’s been during my time on the COSCA Board—with fully half of those members being clan and family societies and other Scottish heritage nonprofit organizations. In fact, three quarters of the current 140 or so clan and family societies here in the States are now COSCA members, plus a growing number of local Saint Andrew’s societies and such prestigious national organizations as Scottish Heritage, USA (SHUSA), the American-Scottish Foundation (ASF), and our Canadian sister society, Clans & Scottish Societies of Canada (CASSOC).

**SNACC 2023 Conference.** Now in its 21st year, the Scottish North American Community Conference (“SNACC 2023”) will be held this year in Alexandria, VA the first weekend in December, in conjunction with the annual Scottish Christmas Parade. There will be two sessions—one on Friday afternoon, December 1, and the other on Saturday afternoon, December 2, after the parade concludes. COSCA cosponsors SNACC, together with five other U.S. and Canadian Scottish heritage nonprofits. And the Scottish Government is a generous underwriter of the conference. Tickets are very reasonably priced, at \$125 for both days or \$75 for a single day. If you are unable to travel to Alexandria for the event, the Conference can be attended remotely, *via Zoom* (for a total of \$45 for both days). Very reasonably priced sleeping rooms (\$150 per night) are available at the conference hotel (Sheraton Suites in Old Town, within walking distance of the parade kickoff site). A complimentary lunch will be served for conference attendees on Saturday, after the parade and before the conference session begins. There will also be complimentary receptions at the conclusion of both the Friday and Saturday sessions.

Lord Lyon Dr. Joseph Morrow will speak to us about the various state ceremonials he participated in this past year (the late Queen’s funeral, King Charles’ coronation, etc.). A major focus of this year’s SNACC conference will be generational change—among the clan and family chiefs and in the leadership ranks of the clan societies and other Scottish heritage nonprofits. Charles, Lord Bruce, eldest son of the Earl of Elgin, will speak to us about the Heirs Project, sponsored by the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs. Joining him in that discussion will be Alasdair Morrison, the (newly installed) young chief of the Morrisons, and Angus Kincaid, the young heir to the Name of Kincaid. Then leadership from both COSCA and CASSOC, will discuss efforts to bring younger Diaspora Scots into leadership roles. And much, much more. For details on all speakers, sessions and venues, and to register and pay for the conference, visit the [SNACC 2023 Conference website](#).

**The sudden passing of Donald Maclaren of Maclaren.** Donald MacLaren of Maclaren and Achleskine, Chief of the Name & Arms of Maclaren, died suddenly in August, while attending his local area highland games in Scotland. He died on the games field, with no warning, from a massive coronary; he was only 68. A larger-than-life Highland chief who believed fervently that the clan has a place in the modern world, Donald was also a distinguished former diplomat, who served as British Ambassador to Georgia after postings to Berlin, Moscow, Havana, Caracas, and Kyiv. Donald was a good friend to COSCA and was well known to American Scots, having visited Grandfather Mountain, Stone Mountain, and a number of other highland games events here in the States on numerous occasions. He also travelled to Washington, DC several times in recent years to attend Tartan Day observances, most recently in April of this year. I was privileged to have known Donald Maclaren and to have had the opportunity to work closely with him on a number of initiatives. He will be missed by us all. (See his full obituary elsewhere in this edition of *The Claymore*.)



**Last Toast Between Donald Maclaren & Malcolm MacGregor 2023**

*Yours aye,*

**John King Bellasai, JD**

**President**

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# THE HEIRS PROJECT



COSCA and the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs have each set up small committees to work with each other on matters of mutual interest and concern. The COSCA group is chaired by Charlie Sherwood, President of the Clan Scott Society, while the SCSC team consists of Sir Malcolm MacGregor (who has succeeded the late Donald MacLaren both as Convenor and in this specific role), Lord Charles Bruce and myself.



Part of the agenda concerns the protection and preservation of authentic Scottish cultural traditions and the exposure of fakery in its various forms, including fake “titles,” pseudo-Scottish arms, new “clans” and the proliferation of so-called septs. COSCA has already published articles in its newsletter on some of these topics.



But another area of mutual concern is what has been known as the Heirs Project. This can mean different things to different people, but in essence it is about our collective responsibility to be good stewards of our heritage and ensure that there are good hands ready to receive it when we pass it on. This is a challenge for any organization and the Standing Council is no different.

SCSC has taken its responsibility to its heirs very seriously. We’ve prepared a short booklet, which has been distributed to heirs, and lays out what they should expect and what a good chief should be expected to do. We’ve arranged events for the heirs, where the booklet has been distributed and these expectations discussed. The heirs themselves have responded by forming a WhatsApp group to serve as a support structure, a mutual resource for each heir, where common challenges can be raised and addressed.

What are these expectations? Relations with clan societies in North America and elsewhere are laid out as critical responsibilities. This is as it should be. As I’ve written in a previous article for this site, being a chief is not just a title: it’s a job, an office, and the relationship between chief and clan or family has a high degree of mutual obligation. An earl or a viscount is arguably responsible only to himself and his ancestors, but a chief is a chief OF something: a clan or extended family. If you’re going to accept the role of leader, you have to be prepared to lead.

What does that really mean in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with Scots living all over the world? COSCA has worked with Lord Bruce by conducting a short survey of clan societies and the results really underlined what good chiefs have always known.

Being a chief is about relationships. It’s important to



show that you care and are concerned about your clan or family. There are different ways to do this: write an occasional column for the society newsletter, be prepared to receive visitors to your home and discuss your shared history, make occasional visits to attend Games and other events overseas. Know your clan history: as Sir Malcolm puts it, you don't have to be *the* expert, just expert! Above all, be a good listener. You shouldn't expect to be the CEO of your clan society, more a kind of non-executive chairman. But even in that capacity, it's important that you are seen to understand the issues, that you're known to care.

Heirs too can be invited to write the occasional column and to visit. Clan societies often complain that it can be hard to attract younger members. Involving an heir, someone younger than many of the society leadership, can really help in this.

Obviously, some chiefs are blessed with the time and financial resources to do more than others. Societies need to know this. A young chief may have a demanding job and a young family which make leaving for overseas trips more difficult. An older chief might be living off a pension and have difficulty, physically, with long flights and busy airports. Some clan societies can easily afford to pay for their chief to visit every few years, while others are struggling to survive as it is. If they can't easily or properly meet the expectations of their clan society, for whatever reason, chiefs know they can appoint someone else, a Commissioner or chieftain, say, to perform many of these responsibilities for them. But here again, an heir may be the perfect substitute.

Arguably, no responsibility is greater for a chief than to produce and mould heirs who can replace them in due course, when their time here is done. For Highland chiefs, this may involve formally identifying one's Tanist and registering him or her with the Lyon Court. My own chief, Alasdair Morrison of Ruchdi, succeeded to the position when he was just 17, after his father, Dr. Ru Morrison, died unexpectedly from a brain tumor, in his early 50s. Fortunately, Ru had filed the appropriate paperwork and Alasdair had been well prepared. He'd been taken to Highland Games in this country since he was a young boy and had even sat in on clan society meetings. Alasdair is seen here in multiple pictures.



This is something every chief and heir can be doing together now, making an effort to introduce the heir in person to the clan and letting the heir see for themselves what and who are involved. None of us knows when our time will be up, but that is why this kind of preparation is so critical. Alasdair is now beginning his second year at Glasgow University. A structure of support is in place to ensure that relatively few demands are made on him as chief for the time being. Even so, relationships are in place; he's a part of group chats with society leadership and has offered to write the occasional piece for the newsletter. When he's ready to do and take on more, he knows the door will be open and any effort made will be appreciated.

Where there is good will on both sides of a relationship, everyone is happy. Any issues can be addressed by encouraging and cultivating good communication skills. Most society folk in the US are fiercely proud and protective of their chiefs and to say that this is a critically important area is not to say it is currently a problem or that such relationships are always dysfunctional. The principal goal of the Heirs Project is to help chiefs, heirs and societies plan wisely, and do what they can to make sure these relationships are as good as they can be in the years ahead.

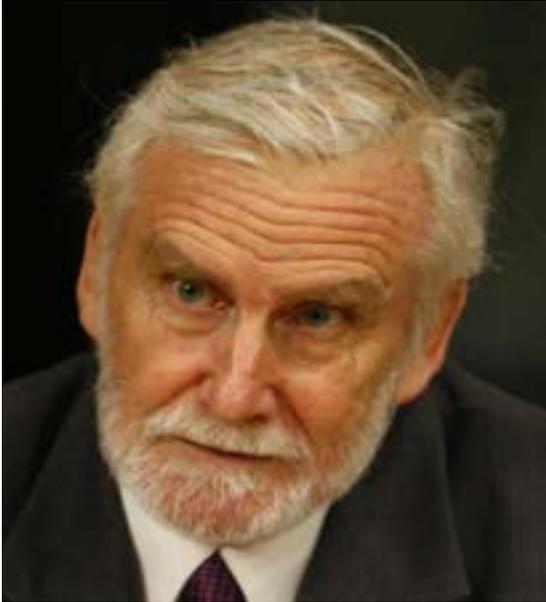
I was never a boy scout, but it seems to me their motto might also be the motto of the Heirs Project. Be Prepared!

***Andrew Morrison, Viscount Dunrossil, is an hereditary Scottish peer long resident here in the USA (in San Antonio, TX). He serves on COSCA's Advisory Board and was recently appointed as Vice-Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs (SCSC)***



# Remembering Andrew J. H. Hallett, FRSE

Scots-born Andrew Jonathan Hughes Hallett, FRSE was a British economist. He was University Professor of Economics and Public Policy at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA (a Washington, DC suburb), Senior Research Fellow at Kings College, and Honorary Professor of Economics at the University of St Andrews. He was also a member of the Scottish Growth Commission. He passed away December 31, 2019, after a seven-year battle with cancer. He was 72. “So very sorry to hear of Andrew Hughes Hallett’s passing—he was an accomplished economist, with the finest of intellects and, above all, a thoroughly decent man. My thoughts are with all who loved him.” —Nicola Sturgeon, then First Minister of Scotland.)



In addition to a distinguished academic career, Professor Hughes Hallett served on the Council of Economic Advisers to the Scottish Government and as a commissioner on the Scottish Fiscal Commission. Most recently, he sat on the Scottish Growth Commission, and was an expert advisor to the Kalman Commission of the UK Government on economic governance. His work as one of three commissioners on the Scottish Fiscal Commission was instrumental in shaping the controversial Scottish independence debate in 2014. (Based on the economic benefits he predicted in his findings, he was a “yes” vote for independence.)

In recognizing Prof. Hughes Hallett’s illustrious career, George Mason School of Economics Dean [Mark Rozell](#) noted that he was “one of the most cited macroeconomists in the world, whose work intersected theory and practice. Scholars and government officials worldwide consulted his studies. He embodied what the School represents.” (Prof. Hughes Hallett joined the faculty of the [Schar School](#) of Economics at George Mason University in 2007, after teaching stints at the University of Bristol, Erasmus University, Newcastle University, the University of Strathclyde, and Vanderbilt University. He was also a visiting professor at Princeton University, Harvard University, Cardiff University, and the Free University of Berlin, as well as the universities of Rome, Paris, and Milan. He advised governments, central banks, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the European Commission and European Central Bank, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.)

“He often commented that his extensive family of PhD students was his greatest legacy in economics,” his family wrote in a statement. “His students have gone on to many and varied roles, influencing economic research, academic advancement, political and government policy, and business.”

Prof. Hughes Hallett is survived by his wife Claudia, his sons David and Jim, and his daughter Nicola. The family has asked that any contributions or donations be made to the Hughes Hallett Scholarship for Research in Applied Economics, administered in conjunction with the St. Andrew’s Society of Washington, D.C.. (See details at [Hughes Hallett Scholarship Fund, organized by David Hughes Hallett.](#))



# *The Hughes Hallett Scholarship*

of the  
*The St. Andrew's Society of Washington, DC's*  
(An active member of COSCA)  
*Washington Scots Charity & Education Fund*

Applications for financial support from the new Hughes Hallett Scholarship Fund for Research in Applied Economics are actively sought and encouraged within the scope of the boundaries and eligibility outlined below.

Scholarship funding from The Hughes Hallett Scholarship Fund for Research in Applied Economics, is awarded annually in the amount of \$10,000. The Scholarship and the endowment that underwrites it were established in 2019 with a generous gift to the St. Andrew's Society of Washington, DC's Washington Scots Charity and Education Fund from distinguished academic and internationally respected Economic Advisor Dr. Andrew Hughes Hallett, FRSE.

Andrew Hughes Hallett made his name as an academic economist with interests in international economics and policy, and fiscal governance and monetary affairs in particular. He held appointments at the University of St Andrews, earlier at Princeton and Harvard, and later at King's College, London. He is a fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and long time consultant to the European Commission (joining rates to the Euro, debt management in the Euro); the European Central Bank (fiscal sustainability); the International Monetary Fund (market reform); the World Bank (strategic trade policies, emerging economies); the European Parliament (monetary affairs, regional policy); as well as the Scottish Growth Commission and the Commissioner, Scottish Fiscal Commission.

In alignment with and honoring his life's work, Dr. Hughes Hallett and his family chose to establish a legacy that would support new talent on the path to advanced critical thinking in the field of applied economics, policy evaluation and economic history. The Scholarships are intended to foster the development of high-caliber academics and policy analysts by supporting the research and studies of doctoral candidates in Economics and related fields.

Candidates for the Hughes Hallett Scholarship will meet the general eligibility requirements of the St. Andrew's Society of Washington, DC's Scholarships Program, through which the Scholarship will be awarded. Refer to the Scholarships pages of the Society's website for eligibility details and application deadlines.

These Hughes Hallett Scholarships are designed to provide additional financial support to those pursuing a PhD at specific US and Scottish Universities\*. Preference will be given to candidates choosing to pursue their degree at one of the named Universities that is not in their country of citizenship. The scholarships are not intended for Masters level studies.

The Committee will take a wide view of what constitutes research in applied and/or quantitative economics. Some preference may be given to the traditional topics of economics (for example: monetary policy, the impact of fiscal imbalances, the impact of financial markets on economic performance). But studies on enhancing productivity growth and competitiveness, macro and trade imbalances and foreign debt risk, labour market reform and increased market flexibility are equally appropriate. And topics with a wider reach: like economic history, innovative research in econometrics, environmental economics or the economics of health, regional policy or fiscal federalism, international or inter-institutional coordination will be equally welcome. The linking factor is that there has to be a clear and demonstrable application amenable to empirical analysis to resolving contemporary economic policy issues. Studies covering advanced developed and/or emerging market economies would be entirely appropriate. These scholarships are intended to support PhD level candidates during the exploratory, research phase and prior to the dissertation-writing phase.

\*the University of St. Andrews; the University of Glasgow; the University of Aberdeen; the University of Edinburgh; Harvard University; Yale University; Princeton University; Columbia University; the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; the University of Strathclyde; the University of Michigan; Heriot-Watt University; Duke University; the University of California, Berkeley; Vanderbilt University; the University of Dundee; the University of Chicago; the University of California, Los Angeles; the University of Stirling.

# THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND FOUNDATION USA



The National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA (NTSUSA) is the American friends group of Scotland's largest conservation charity. Our mission is to connect Americans with opportunities to protect Scotland's heritage and natural beauty now and for generations to come.

This year, NTSUSA was delighted to support a range of conservation priorities at the National Trust for Scotland, including the digitization of Robert Burns manuscripts in the collection of the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum. The collection is rich with stories that have the potential to elevate the public's understanding of Burns, building on his international reputation and inspiring people of all ages and nationalities. But right now they are only accessible by a visit to Alloway – and even then are often not on public view due to conservation considerations. With NTSUSA's support, the Trust is cataloguing and digitizing the 3,500 Burns artifacts and manuscripts in its collection and creating a searchable online interface. The Burns Online Access Project will increase the collection's reach far beyond the walls of the museum.

Just last month, the National Trust for Scotland acquired the Treshnish Isles in the Inner Hebrides – again with support from NTSUSA. Now uninhabited, the Treshnish Isles have a long human history that dates from the Iron Age. They were in the possession of King Haakon of Norway until 1249. The islands feature the ruins of two medieval castles and have strong historical links with the Scottish clans MacDougal, MacDonald, and Maclean. Today they are an internationally significant seabird nesting site. We are proud to have secured the future of this distinctive seascape.

NTSUSA is also working closely in the United States with Scottish Clans by inviting them to join us as a Clan Partner. NTSUSA's Clan Partners share our commitment to protecting Scotland's natural and cultural heritage now and for generations to come. With their annual financial support, NTSUSA is able fulfill its mission to aid the Trust in important work like the Burns Online Access Project and protecting the Treshnish Isles. In exchange for this support, Clan associations can offer discounted NTSUSA memberships to every member of their clan, take advantage of marketing and outreach to new audiences with hyperlinks on our website and monthly newsletter, as well as



**Bachelors' Club Interior Downstairs**

special access and planning guidance for group travel. Contact [Lisa Bravata](#) to learn more and sign up.

In the coming year, we will be raising funds for additional projects in the Inner Hebrides, especially on the Isle of Canna, as well as the conservation of the Bachelors' Club in Tarbolton (the site of the first Burns Night) and work at Fyvie Castle in Aberdeenshire. Learn more about NTSUSA and join as a member at [www.ntsusa.org](http://www.ntsusa.org).



**Treshnish Isles**



**Suzanne Reid, Regional Conservator for the National Trust for Scotland, inspects the First Commonplace Book**



## The American-Scottish Foundation® is Proud to Partner with Pittencrieff Park and House

The Carnegie Dunfermline Trust is proud to be collaborating with the American Scottish Foundation (ASH) on an exciting new project to restore the historic Pittencrieff House and Park in Dunfermline, Scotland. This stunning park is situated in the Kingdom of Fife, a short 30-minute journey from Edinburgh.

The park was bought in 1902 by American/Scottish industrialist and philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie and gifted to the people of his hometown of Dunfermline. Carnegie described the park as *'the most soul satisfying gift that I made or ever could make'*.

The park is steeped in Scottish history and royal heritage. So many clans and ancient Scottish families have developed this stunning park over the centuries including Canmore, Wallace, Bruce, Forbes, Carnegie, Morrison and Geddes.

ASF is honored to be working together with the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust as they begin the next phase of renovating Pittencrieff Park and Pittencrieff House. Dunfermline, Scotland became an official city this year, and it is the home and birthplace of Andrew Carnegie.

*You now have the opportunity to shape the next chapter of this iconic place.*

The Pittencrieff House and Park project aims to build on Dunfermline's ancient foundations and Carnegie's pioneering vision and ideas. Pittencrieff House will be transformed into a visitor experience centre and a bespoke venue for events, exhibitions and weddings. The Carnegie Dunfermline Trust vision is for the wider park is to be an international destination for health, happiness, educational and wellbeing.

[Follow this link](#) for an invitation to join us on our exciting our vision for the future. The American-Scottish Foundation is a non profit 501c3 organization and all donations made through the Foundation are tax deductible in the United States to the extent of the law. For A Downloadable PDF Donation Mail in Form [Click Here](#).



# EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE

## FLYING THE FLAG FOR SCOTLAND

In its 76<sup>th</sup> year, the world-famous celebration of performing arts, the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, carried their vibrant banner in the New York Tartan Day Parade, before continuing on to Washington DC. It is the first time the Fringe has appeared during the Tartan Week celebrations and it was heartening to see how well known and loved the Fringe is for artists, audiences and producers from across the USA.

For those of you who haven't heard of the Edinburgh Fringe, it provides a unique platform for freedom of cultural expression and can be compared to the modern-day enlightenment, where topics of the day are taken onstage to be explored and enjoyed, sparking lively debate and discussion between audience members long after the last curtain has come down. It is uncensored, meaning there is no one single artistic director or venue who selects the work. If you are an artist with a story to tell and a stage to perform on, you can be part of the Edinburgh Fringe. With professionals from stage and screen flocking to Edinburgh each year to discover new talent and work, it is the most important export market for the performing arts. It has grown to host more than 3,000 shows each year, in over 200 venues with upwards of 20,000 performers. Across artists, audiences, media and industry, 167 countries have been involved in the Fringe.

The Fringe has developed a deep and meaningful relationship with USA over many, many years. It is fair to say that it is not just the original ideals and values that are shared between the USA and EdFringe. Innovation is at the heart of creation, and no one knew that better than Jim Haynes, an American and a former member of the US Airforce who settled in Edinburgh in the 1950s. Haynes was one of the leading lights in the development of the Edinburgh Fringe as we now know it today, and a passionate believer in freedom of expression and the bravery it could inspire. Not only was he one of the founders of Edinburgh's Traverse Theatre; he also created a beacon of freedom in Britain's first paperback bookshop in George Street, that served as a Fringe venue and box office for many of the early shows, and where he helped put together the first printed Fringe programme. As a former serviceman, Jim carried the ideals of bravery and freedom of expression wherever he went.

In 1966, the University of Southern California became the first American company to take work to the Fringe; between then and 2005, they played more than 23 Fringes, presenting plays, musicals and new works by some of the USA's finest creative minds, including Eugene O'Neill, Tennessee Williams, Neil Simon and Bob Fosse. The USC presented UK premieres of Stephen Sondheim's *Follies* and Sam Shepherd's *Buried Child*, winning Fringe First Awards from The Scotsman newspaper for both. At various times the company featured fledgling stars such as John Ritter, Ally Sheedy and Eric Stoltz.

In 2019, we welcomed 278 shows from US attend the Edinburgh Fringe, followed by 272 in 2022 (with 1,425 individual company members), so even post-Covid there is a huge appetite to travel and perform at the Fringe. Universities and colleges, such as USC School of Dramatic Arts in LA and Northwestern University, Chicago, are pilgrims who take students to Edinburgh to learn and develop their skills; we are graced with everyone from independent artists at the beginning of their careers, to more established artists who return year after year. Some of our best-known Fringe alumni include Lin Manuel Miranda, Ruby Wax, Robin Williams, Mike Myers and David Schwimmer.

While the concept of Fringe was born in Edinburgh, over 250 fringe festivals have sprung up across the globe; at last count, 37 fringe festivals take place in the States under the banner of US Association of Fringe Festivals (see Annex A). World Fringe Day is celebrated annually around the world on 7 July, while the World Fringe Congress is a biannual event, which originated in Edinburgh, but now is independently supported and takes place in different parts of the world. The US hosted Fringe World Congress in May 2022 in Orlando, Florida.

The wonderful relationship that the Edinburgh Fringe enjoys with USA participants today (whether they be audience members or performers) is not something that simply exists. We want it to be nurtured and celebrated. The values that we hold dear, and which we believe are essential for the development and support of creative talent, are rooted in the concepts of freedom and bravery. We know we must be free to explore our creative boundaries, and it is certain that you must be brave to put them in front of an audience.

If you want to learn more about the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, please visit [www.edfringe.com](http://www.edfringe.com)

# fringe

04 – 28 August 2023 | [edfringe.com](http://edfringe.com)

**Fill yer boots!**



October 28, November 18, December 16, January 20 - Online



## Symposium for Growth and Success

**A WELLSPRING FOR LEADERS, DIRECTORS AND  
CHANGEMAKERS TO RETHINK AND SHAPE THE  
FUTURE OF OUR SCOTTISH HERITAGE ORGANIZATIONS**



Our clans, families, and societies are the torchbearers of our proud Scottish Heritage. Yet we struggle in areas of membership growth, engagement, volunteerism, genealogy/DNA, sustainability, governance, succession and finance. This **online four-part symposium** is to share and discuss best practices for these challenges. **Each session will also include an open interactive Q&A forum where our concerns and voices will be heard.**

**Join Us in Driving the Future of Our Culture and Heritage**

### **WHAT TO EXPECT**

**Panelist Presentations, Best Practices, Hints, Tips, Resources,  
Interactive Q&A, Session Recordings and more**

Visit [scotscanada.ca/symposium](https://scotscanada.ca/symposium) to find out more and to register  
*Presented by Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada*

# Symposium for Growth and Success

## Hosted by Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada (CASSOC)

In reaching out to Clans and Societies via a recent survey, we've learned that there is an interest, and need, in sharing our successes and best practices. We also learned that there are many shared challenges.

Join us for this Symposium, hosted by CASSOC, as we focus on the growth and success of our Scottish Clans and Societies. This is an opportunity for us to learn from each other. There will be panelists who will share their organizations' successes as well as **an open and interactive forum** so we can hear your ideas and answer your questions.

Here's a quick look at what your Clan and Society executive members can expect in the four sessions, each of which is anticipated to run (virtually via Zoom) for 2.5 hours. **Registration will commence in September.**

### **Member Connections, Saturday, October 28, 2023, 4 pm ET**

We all want to succeed! So, how do we grow our memberships? What is the key to retaining members? And how do we effectively engage our members? What role does communication play, whether it's in person, by email, social media or virtually? Marketing and public relations is another key component of growth, retention and engagement. And we can't forget the importance of social interactions with our members.

### **Volunteers and Events, Saturday, November 18, 2023, 4 pm ET**

We all have enough volunteers, right? Wrong! This was identified by our survey respondents as one of our biggest concerns. How do we recruit, on-board and manage our volunteers? How do we avoid volunteer burn out? How do we encourage our members to host Clan and Society tents at Highland Games and Society events and encourage our members to attend? Do Commissioners/Conveners/tent hosts have a guide to ensure they are successful?

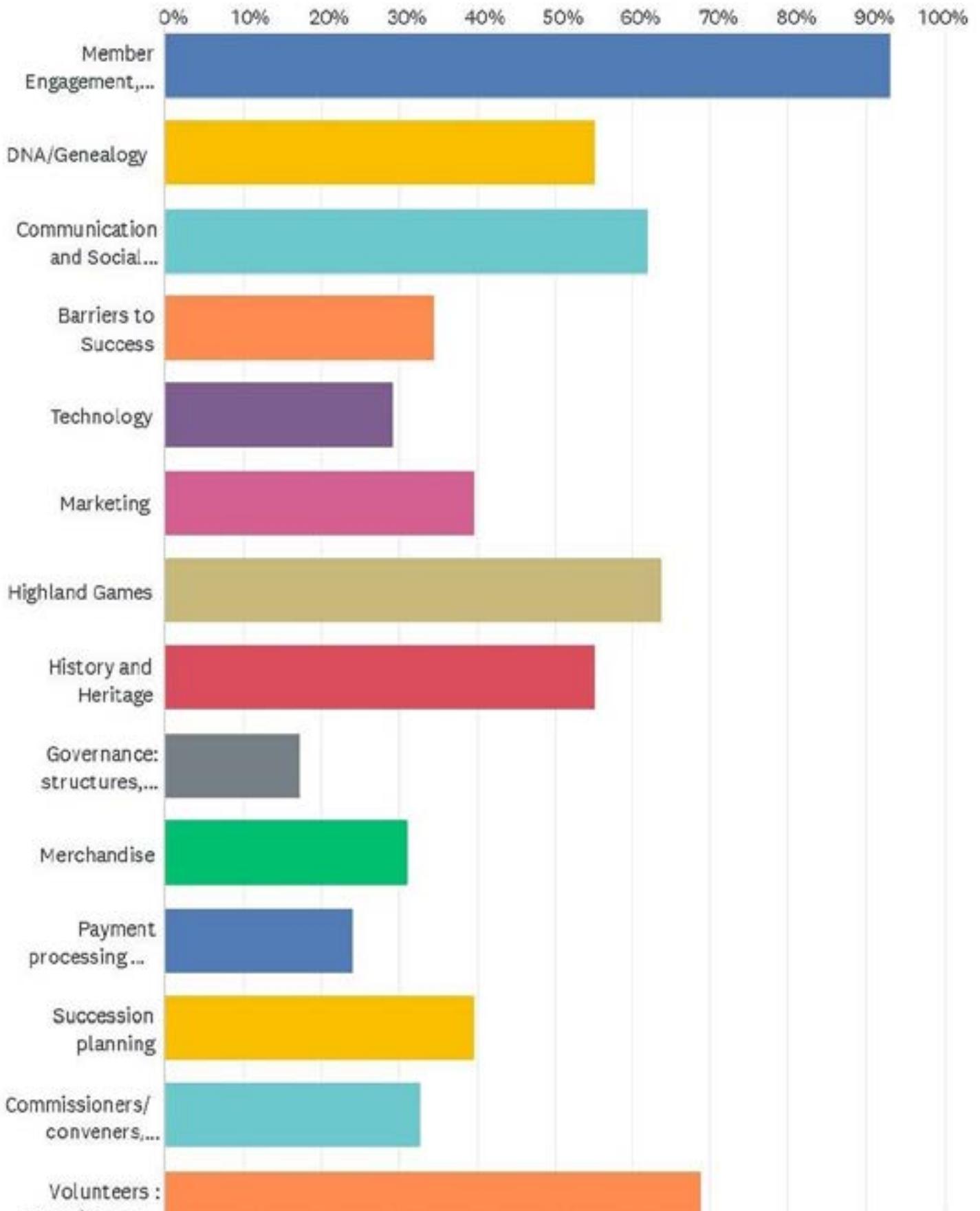
### **Heritage, Saturday, December 16, 2023, 4 pm ET**

Genealogy and DNA are two strong drivers that inspire people to join our organizations. Has using genealogy and DNA increased membership? Do you have a robust heritage and history knowledge centre that is available to your members? Do you have merchandise that allows your members to celebrate and promote their history and heritage? What strategies work?

### **Sustainability, Saturday, January 20, 2024, 4 pm ET**

When we retire from positions of leadership, we want to leave our organization better than the day we stepped forward. How do we do this? By focusing on succession planning; identifying barriers to success for our organization; using technology for efficiencies and communications; and creating a robust system for payments processing. Another important discussion point is governance. Do you have the optimal structure, policies, procedures and practices in place? Lastly has a long-term funding strategy been worked out?





*Above is a visual summary of the responses for 'topics of interest'. Over 60 respondents contributed and all provided input into this portion of the survey!*

# SAVE THE DATE!

Come join us for the 2023

**Scottish North American Community Conference**  
In Washington, D.C.



**SCOTTISH NORTH AMERICAN**  
**COMMUNITY CONFERENCE**  
DECEMBER 1 & 2, 2023



CHICAGO  
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SCOTS  
The St. Andrew's Society of Detroit

**'A Scottish North American Conversation:  
The Power of our vibrant Community!'**

**Save the Date for the 2023 SNACC!**  
**December 1 & 2, 2023, In-Person & Online!**

For further information or to join our mailing list:

929-499-9025

[snaccevent@gmail.com](mailto:snaccevent@gmail.com)

<https://scottishleadershipconference.com>



# Report of the COSCA Newsletter Editor (“*Claymore*”)

## Background

This is actually the first official report from me, aka the Newsletter Editor. I have been the editor since 2015. WOW. If you had told me today, that I had started 8 years ago and produced 16 issues of *Claymore*, I would have laughed. When the pandemic arrived, and following suggestions from the Board, we changed our schedule to create more frequent publications, with two, “expanded” issues alternating with more traditional shorter issues. This allows us to provide more content to the readership, without sacrificing the magazine-style format which has become a hallmark of the publication and which has drawn much praise.

This is the fourth issue this year and we may yet squeeze in a Christmas issue. If anyone from the Board has something they’d like to see included, [please get it to me](#) ASAP!

I would like to thank all those of you who have contributed to the newsletter so far. Without your support and ideas, the newsletter may have devolved into an Aussie production along the lines of “*Black Emu*”, “*The Greatest Estate on Earth*” or “*Ochre and Rust*”. Interesting to me, but of little or no value to our members in their pursuit of a better understanding of what is going on outside their respective clan societies, by their fellow clan societies and in the larger world of Scottish heritage.

It is not and never has been the intention of the *Claymore* or its editor to replace the internal newsletters of the various clan and family associations which make up COSCA’s Organizational Membership. To the contrary, the goal for *Claymore* has always been to focus on things that are of broader interest and importance to ALL the clan societies—topics up at the “tree-top” level, where overarching issues can be addressed with thoughtful, “themed” articles.

## COSCA Information Dispersal

The number of newsletters is not of particular importance. It is that which is contained within that is important.

The *Claymore* is not our only source of “newsy” information going out to the membership, nor should it be. Currently there is *Claymore*, a traditional newsletter, created and assembled by the Newsletter Editor, a committee chairmanship appointment made, as per the Bylaws, by the President of COSCA.

In addition, there are the monthly “heritage blogs” issued by our Communications Chairman. This terminology better describes these than calling them a “newsletter”, which is only confusing. These monthly blogs complement our *Claymore* newsletter content, *Claymore* is proofed for inaccuracies or incorrect language by at least a second set of eyes prior to being finalized and distributed by our Membership Chairman.

*Claymore* has been around a long time, going back to COSCA’s early days in the 1970’s. That makes it about 50 years old! Regardless, it has long been our “publication of record” and should continue to be. Aside from longstanding name recognition, the “expanded version” of *Claymore* always contains an article from COSCA’s President, reporting to the members and others about policy initiatives, planned events and “housekeeping” matters not found elsewhere. Likewise, a recap of the most recent Clan & Family Caucus events is always included, especially remarks by visiting Chiefs (honored guests of the games) with plenty of photos of the Chief and his or her family.

Input from members which would be of interest outside their own clan are always encouraged and included whenever submitted. Other articles from “outside” sources which are of special interest to the clan and family associations, the bulk of our Organizational Members, are especially sought after. These include significant developments at the clan society level from our Organizational Members, such as articles discussing the process of getting a new clan chief identified and approved by Lyon Court, something that an increasing number of chief-less clans (previously called “broken” clans) have been doing in recent years (see the article in this issue about Clan Mackay). This complex and time-consuming process is of great interest to other clans and families contemplating doing the same and have produced numerous positive comments from readers.

In addition, substantive articles from Board members and from our outside Advisory Board are always

encouraged. These have included thoughtful, sometimes provocative, pieces by Andrew, Lord Dunrossil, Sir Malcolm MacGregor, Dr. Bruce Durie and others amongst our official Advisors. A number of pieces from The Lord Lyon, who tells us he is an avid reader of **Claymore** and a big fan, have been included on several occasions and are always highly sought after. Same goes for the Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, our primary Scotland-based partner organization. The Convenor tells us he always routes **Claymore** as it comes in to all the other SCSC members, an important way for the clan and family society “community” here in the USA to communicate with the chiefs of their names, back in Scotland.

**Finally**

We cannot produce a worthwhile newsletter without news or newsy articles. These are not only needed, but must be timely. We rushed out a brief newsletter for the Coronation. It was sent out prior to the event, the first time since I have been here. We can do that again if we have heads up for a particularly significant event or announcement. I would like to see articles, discussions, questions, criticisms of COSCA policies and procedures, whatever, sent to us for wide distribution. This is after all, your voice to and from COSCA.

Bruce MacGregor Whyte ..... [coscaeditor@gmail.com](mailto:coscaeditor@gmail.com)

COSCA Newsletter Editor ..... 404-402-3357

# Ancient Civilizations in Orkney

Bruce MacGregor Whyte, Editor, Photographer, Navigator

Part 2 of 2

## The Ring of Brodgar

“Looks like an mysteriously stern assemblage of ancient druids, and invincibly silent and shaggy”  
Scottish geologist Hugh Miller in 1846

“...a common theory has been that they had some connection with the religion of the Druids, and may have been places of sacrifice.”

**Postponed to next issue**

## “A TRADITIONAL SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS”

### REALLY?

I moved to the United States in 1981, when I was working for a British bank. Not long after that I met a man in Houston called Tommy Smith, who on learning I was a Scot, proudly told me he wore a kilt once a year, “at Christmas, of course”. He added that they loved to celebrate a “traditional Scottish Christmas” in his house.

(This was by no means the only strange new experience he exposed me to: his father-in-law was a fellow called Bud Adams, who owned the Houston Oilers football team, and I was lucky enough to see my first American football game from the luxury of the Owner’s Box at the Astrodome.)

Why did I think that was strange (the traditional Scottish Christmas, not the football)? Because when I was a boy, Christmas was not even a holiday in Scotland. For 400 years, from 1560 when the Church of Scotland became officially Presbyterian, until 1958, Christmas, Easter and the rest of the Catholic liturgical calendar were supposed to have been banished from the lives of good God-fearing Scots. If anything, it was more acceptable to celebrate the old Celtic or Norse pagan festivals like Samhain (Halloween) or Yule/winter solstice than anything as “Papist” as Christmas. Hogmanay was **the** winter festival.

It was the same in America, at least in the Protestant communities. The Puritans and later, the Baptists, took the view that if it wasn’t in the Bible, it wasn’t Christian. It was widely assumed that the date on which Christmas was celebrated was chosen because it was already a big festival of gift-giving in ancient Rome, the Saturnalia. In a process called “syncretism,” the church sensibly took over a popular feast and gave it a Christian name and meaning. The Puritans wanted none of that!

So, what changed and when? Immigration, nation-building and department stores. The nineteenth century saw a massive increase in immigration from Europe, much of it Roman Catholic, bringing their own traditions with them. It didn’t take long for Boston to change from a fiercely Puritan city to one associated primarily with Irish Catholics. Some academics have suggested that when Congress first designated Christmas a federal holiday in 1870, it was partly to help unite a nation recovering from the civil war. But most give the credit (or blame) to the new department stores, which saw a tremendous commercial opportunity to boost sales during the winter months.

When some people talk about getting the commerce out of Christmas and returning it to its traditional, “real” meaning, they forget that the reason it’s a holiday in the US at all has more to do with commerce than religion. Baptists in Texas actually resisted the new holiday even after 1870, but were eventually forced to admit defeat. It became a state holiday in Texas in 1879.

Today, of course, people put up decorations right after Thanksgiving (or even earlier) and the first three weeks of December seem to be one long alcoholic binge, with a party every night (allegedly). Then, on December 26, it all stops. Trees are taken down and left at the curb, gifts returned, and the whole place goes into a hangover-fueled fit of remorse, with resolutions to live clean, get fit and lose weight.

Traditional? Hardly. The liturgical season leading up to Christmas, Advent, was supposed to be a time of quiet reflection and preparation, like Lent. Christmas began on Christmas Eve and lasted for 12 days, as the song says, ending on January 7, Epiphany, when the Wise Men were supposed to have come to visit the baby Jesus. Twelfth Night was when you took down the decorations. Just as modern Christians in this country are pulling down *their* decorations, the “traditional” season of Christmas is getting underway.

Bah, humbug! But what about Tommy Smith and his kilt? How did tartan (or “plaid,” as some Americans call it) become associated with Christmas? A disproportionate number of the Highlanders cleared from their homes after Culloden and sent to America might have been Episcopalian or even Catholic, like their Prince. Regardless, they prized the tartan which was banned under the Acts of Proscription in 1746 and reveled in the opportunity to flaunt it over here. Even if they didn’t celebrate Christmas particularly, they were known for enjoying other reasons for marking the winter solstice (Yule, Hogmanay), which they tended to do with great gusto.

The lesson, I suppose, is that our traditions don’t have to be old to carry meaning for us. The Kirkin’ o’ the Tartan goes back to World War II Washington DC, not to olde Scotland. And that’s OK. Many families make up their own traditions, ways of celebrating and being together, which they follow every year. These traditions carry real meaning for them. Whatever form it takes, I wish you all a “traditional” merry Christmas.

Nollaig Chrìdeil!

Andrew Morrison, Viscount Dunrossil

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## Council of Scottish Clans & Associations, Inc

*A 501(c)3 non-profit organization  
COSCA was founded in 1976 by Dr. Herbert MacNeal and a handful of other  
dedicated volunteers 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 missions;
- Providing education and learning opportunities in Scottish fields;
- Building relationships with Scotland and the global diaspora.

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

*Council of Scottish Clans & Associations, Inc*

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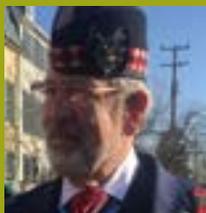
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## Council of Scottish Clans and Associations, Inc.

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

### Scottish Clan or Family Association Membership: \$50 per year

(Membership Year January 1 - December 31)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Scottish Clan or Family Association Represented: \_\_\_\_\_

Yr Founded \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Regional Directors (average annual) \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Memberships (average annual) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Scottish Games or Events attended (average annual) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(First, Middle, Last)

Contact Position/Title

Contact Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(No., Street, City, State & Zip)

Home Phone No.: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile No.: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed #: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Applying for Individual Membership: \$25 per year

(Membership Year January 1 - December 31)

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(First, Middle, Last)

Contact Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(No., Street, City, State & Zip)

Home Phone No.: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile No.: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed #: \_\_\_\_\_

Clan Membership(s) (use back if necessary)

What can COSCA do for you? \_\_\_\_\_

(use the back of this sheet if needed)

No. of Scottish Games \_\_\_\_\_

Events attended yearly \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite 2 Scottish Games or Events

Would you be willing to Volunteer to staff an information table for COSCA?

Yes!

No Mail application with your check to: COSCA, 1061 Legend Drive, Greensboro, GA, 30642

COSCA is a registered IRS Section 501(c)3 public charity incorporated in the State of Delaware, USA.