



# CLAYMORE

The Newsletter of the Council of Scottish Clans and Associations

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After 22 years, the time has finally come. Seven gravestones of the Chiefs of Clan Gregor, are now being unearthed (click picture). The stones are from 1390-1528 and will go to Edinburgh for conservation and then be exhibited in the Dalmally Church.

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# Meet COSCA's New Treasurer, Ed Ward!

Previously an At-Large Member of COSCA's Board of Directors from 2020 - 2022, Ed Ward was elected to a two-year term as COSCA's Treasurer this past December. (Ed was elected to the full term after previously agreeing to step in to serve for six months as Interim Treasurer, due to the sudden, untimely death of COSCA's longtime Treasurer, Clark Scott, last May, from COVID-19 related pneumonia).



Before his retirement from fulltime employment, Ed had over 40 years of experience in managing various aspects of information and communication technology for both national and international commercial organizations, and in state and federal governmental operations, first as an employee and then as a contractor.

Ed's professional accomplishments are numerous: (1) He led the implementation of the first private commercial small-dish satellite network in the 1980's; (2) created and implemented a network architecture for a multinational company's expansion into Western Europe; (3) served as Communications Director for the U.S. House of Representatives, overseeing all data, voice, and video communications on the Hill and in the congressional district offices; (4) initiated the consolidation of various agency networks in West Virginia into a unified State network; (5) managed the data center operations for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, including support for the bank closings in the post-2008 financial crisis; and (6) successfully managed the overall Operations Center for the federal Health Insurance Marketplace (Obamacare), coordinating 20+ contracting firms, running two dozen independent systems, to provide a responsive and reliable customer experience.

Ed holds master's degrees in both business and telecommunication, a graduate certificate in information management in the public sector, and a post-graduate certificate in Scottish culture and heritage from the University of Edinburgh. He has taught data communications at the college level and served as a Commissioner on the Alexandria, Virginia Commission on Information Technology.

Ed is currently the Treasurer of the National Capital Tartan Day Committee and a life member of the Stewart Society, the Clan Stewart Society in America, and the Saltire Society. He is a member of the Saint Andrew's Society of Washington, DC, the Royal Celtic Society, the American-Scottish Foundation, Historic Scotland, the National Trust for Scotland USA Foundation, and the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

Ed's wife, Maria, is a teacher in the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society and a long-time volunteer for the Virginia Scottish Games, where she usually runs the Scottish Country Dance tent. Ed and Maria share an enduring interest in, and an affection for, Scotland and Scottish heritage. They were married at Urquhart Castle, on the shores of Loch Ness.





## **Scottish Parliament: Cannot Hold Independence Referendum without Westminster's OK**

The UK Supreme Court has ruled the Scottish Parliament cannot legislate for an independence referendum without the UK Government's prior agreement.

The move comes as a significant blow to Nicola Sturgeon, who had set out plans to hold a second vote on independence on October 19, 2023. The First Minister previously said the SNP would fight the next general election as a "de facto" referendum if the Supreme Court ruled against them. However, it is not clear how this would work in practice.

The Scottish Government's top law officer, the Lord Advocate, asked the court to rule on whether Holyrood has competence to legislate for the vote.

During a two-day hearing in October, Dorothy Bain KC said resolving the legality of the proposed Scottish Independence Referendum Bill is a "critically important question". She said she would not be able to "clear" the introduction of the Bill herself without the court's ruling. Ms Bain said the issue had been "festering" since the early days of devolution.

It was argued the Bill is at too early a stage for the court to issue a ruling on, saying the question of the Bill's competence should not be "farmed out" to the Supreme Court.

A panel of five justices delivered its decision in November. The Court addressed whether it would determine the "reference" from the Lord Advocate, before turning to the question of whether the Bill relates to a reserved issue.

Supreme Court president Lord Reed said the court decided it would make a ruling and that this was in the public interest. He said the court had unanimously concluded the proposed Bill "does relate to reserved matters", adding: "*Accordingly, in the absence of any modification of the definition of reserved matters, by an order in council under section 30 of the Scotland Act or otherwise, the Scottish Parliament does not have the power to legislate for a referendum on Scottish independence.*" Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar said

the focus must now turn to “the problems facing our country”. He said: “It was right for the Scottish Government to seek legal clarity on this question. The Supreme Court’s answer was clear and I thank them for their speedy work in this case.

“We must now focus on the problems facing our country, from rising bills to the crisis in our NHS.

“There is not a majority in Scotland for a referendum or independence, neither is there a majority for the status quo. One thing is clear, there is a majority in Scotland and across the UK for change.

“A Labour government will deliver the change that Scotland and the whole of the UK needs. Every part of the UK deserves better than more misery and decline under the Tories.”

Scottish Liberal Democrat leader Alex Cole-Hamilton said: “This is an embarrassing defeat for the First Minister. Scores of legal experts warned that the law is clear and that this case was a complete waste of Supreme Court time and taxpayers’ money, but the Scottish Government would not listen.

“It has been a terrible use of funds at a time when every penny should be squeezed to help people through the cost of living crisis. Breaking up the UK simply isn’t a priority for people opening their bills with dread or struggling to get the treatment they need.

“I have lost count of how many times the First Minister has launched independence campaigns, each with less energy and momentum than the last. While Nicola Sturgeon goes through the motions people wait days for an ambulance, months for NHS treatment and years for lifeline ferries.

“It is time the SNP Government finally focus on what really matters. What Scotland needs now is new hope not old divisions.”

The introduction of the Bill herself cannot be cleared without the Court’s Rule. Ms Bain said the issue had been “festering” since the early days of devolution. The UK Government’s representative, Sir James Eadie KC, argued the Bill “squarely and directly” relates to a matter reserved to Westminster – the union between Scotland and England.

*By Alistair Grant, Political Editor, The Scotsman, November 23, 2022*

## **Scottish Parliament: Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill Passed - Needs Royal Assent and Westminster’s OK**

The Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill has been passed by the Scottish Parliament, and is awaiting approval from Westminster and royal assent. The bill amends the Gender Recognition Act 2004 of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, making it simpler for people to change their legal gender by applying for legal recognition through a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC).

The UK government has blocked the new law, intended to allow trans people in Scotland to change their legal gender without a medical diagnosis – a controversial move that has added fuel to the already highly emotional debate over Scottish independence.



Nicola Sturgeon, The First Minister, called the intervention “a full-frontal attack on our democratically elected Scottish Parliament and its ability to make its own decisions on devolved matters,” in a post on Twitter.

On 17 January 2023, the United Kingdom government used Section 35 of the Scotland Act, 1998 to block the bill from receiving royal assent, the first time section 35 has been used. Scottish Secretary Alister Jack – the minister representing Scotland in the UK government – announced that Westminster had taken the highly unusual step of blocking the Scottish bill from becoming law because it was concerned about its impact on UK-wide equality laws – a justification that trans rights groups dismissed.

# Highland Echoes now The Scottish Cultural Outreach Foundation

This non-profit organization is dedicated to spreading information about all things Scottish, particularly to the youth and kids. Jennifer Licko, Founder and CEO of Highland Echoes, has been offering in-school programs with teacher resources under the banner, [Scotland in the Class](#) and [The Highland Echoes Show](#) for many successful years.

She has broadened their scope of activities and in 2022, reorganized all their programs under the new, non-profit organization [Scottish Cultural Outreach Foundation](#). To this has been added Scottish Kids Corner, a free, emailed, quarterly newsletter available to all Clans and Societies. This contains factoids and activities based on the factoid(s) for that quarter, see next page.

The projects currently being offered are:

- Scotland In The Class
- Scottish Kids Corner
- Scottish Cultural Arts Workshops
- Highland Games For Kids (coming soon)
- Extensive Resources

If you are interested in having her programs included in your childrens’ schools, [email Jennifer](#) and she can, and will, help you. We highlighted Jennifer’s Hlghland Echoes in our Claymore edition of August 2019.



Logo of the Scottish Cultural Outreach Foundation



# Kids Corner

BY SCOTLAND IN THE CLASS

## The Selkies

In Scottish mythology, there is a very mysterious creature called the Selkie.

Selkies have the ability to shed their seal skin and take a human form. Archaeologists have found bones from human hands buried alongside those from seal flippers at a 6000 year old site. We simple do not know a lot about the first people who hunted, fished and gathered plants in Mesolithic Scotland. However the Selkies have a prominate place in Scottish legends.



### Book for Young Audiences: The Selkie Girl

We have a book suggestion! **The Selkie Girl** by Janis Mackay is a lovely retelling of the traditional Scottish folk tale of the Selkie adapted for a young audience.

"Fergus lives with his father by the sea, but is lonely. He wants a friend more than anything. One day Fergus finds treasure on the beach: a beautiful fur blanket hidden in the rocks. But Fergus doesn't know that his treasure belongs to someone else -- a Selkie girl has lost her seal skin and can't go home to the sea without it.

Will Fergus give his new friend what she needs, and risk being lonely again?"

### Write your own Selkie Story!

There are all types of things that can go wrong when you are a seal living as a human on land.

You could lose your skin and not be able to return to the sea.

You could become best friends with a human and have to keep the secret that you are a seal.

Create a story about Selkie and what happens when she tries to have a life on land!



Did you see the Disney movie Luca? If so, then you are familiar with the legend of leaving the water to take human form and the troubles that can take place!

Send your stories in to [info@highlandechoes.com](mailto:info@highlandechoes.com) one winner will be chosen to receive free tickets to the Highland Echoes Show In Boone NC during Grandfather Mt. Highland Games week.



# Clan MacEwen

## strives to grow strong again with a new chief

An aristocratic actor and writer has challenged rivals to speak out or hold their peace for ever as he bids to be the first chief of an ancient clan for more than 500 years.

Clan MacEwen, whose ancestral homeland is the Cowal peninsula, Argyll and Bute, has been without a chief since Swene McEwen died childless in 1493.

Sir John Roderick Hugh McEwen, 57, the fifth Baronet of Marchmont and Bardrochat, has been acting as commander of the clan. McEwen, who lives near Duns, in the Scottish Borders, aims to be officially installed as chief at a ceremony in 2024, but has urged any other contenders to come forward.

“If all goes according to plan Clan MacEwen will have a chief for the first time since the 15th century,” he said. “As commander I am required to seek out anyone who claims descent from our last chief, Swene McEwen.

“It is possible that someone considers him or herself a more suitable candidate. If this someone exists please will they make themselves known to the Clan MacEwen Society.”

McEwen, who featured in *Time Runner*, the 1993 science-fiction film, alongside Mark Hamill, the *Star Wars* actor, was contacted by the clan society after his grandfather Jock, the first baronet, was approached in the 1950s.

He has described himself as an “ordinary writer and actor, husband of a teacher, smallholder and father to four children”.

McEwen is prepared to take on any challenger but believes the prospect is unlikely. “I have been commander since 2014 and since then, with a great deal of help from a brilliant clan society chaired by the dynamic Sean McCuin, I have helped to unite and vivify the clan,” he said. “It would, I think, take quite an effort for another to convince the clan that he or she were a more suitable proposition.”

McEwen, who was educated at Ampleforth College, North Yorkshire, and Glasgow University, insisted the small clan already punched beyond its reach on the international stage. “If Clan MacEwen had been a country it would have finished 15th in the medal table at the Tokyo Olympics, between Cuba and Hungary,” he said. “Thanks to Australian swimmers, Emma McKeon and Kaylee McKeown, and British showjumper, Tom McEwen, we won seven golds, one silver and three bronzes.”

The clan represents those bearing variations of the name including MacEwan, MacEwen, McEwan and McEwen. Perhaps its best known domestic member is the 19th-century brewer and politician William McEwan, whose ales are sold worldwide.

McCuin, the society chairman, insisted that finding a new chief is hugely important. “A clan without a chief is considered broken,” he said. “It became very evident that broken clans are considered second class to the organised clans like the Donalds and McGregors. The Lord Lyon has convened a committee of MacEwens to look at the issue of succession to the chieftainship.

“With the contributions the Mac-Ewens have made there is no way we are a second-class clan. With a clan chief we will take our rightful place.” The new chief will need to be verified by Lord Lyon King of Arms. The clan, motto “Grow strong again”, held lands next to Loch Fyne but was dispossessed following the death of its last chief. In 1995 a cairn was put up on the site of the ruined MacEwen castle.



**Arms of John MacEwen,  
Baronet of Larchmont**

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Happy New Year to all our readers from me and the entire Governance Group at COSCA!

As the New Year gets under way, I am happy to be able to report that we as an organization are poised to have a very good year. After three years of pandemic-driven slow-down, things are now largely back to normal. The calendar is filling up fast with highland games events—at many more of which we plan to show the flag this year. COSCA has a better bank balance than we did at the start of the pandemic and we have maintained the size of our membership, even growing it a bit (including adding additional clan and family associations and other new Organizational Members). Of the 120 or so clan and family associations active in the USA, we now have a majority of them among our members—first time in many years—but the goal remains to grow this portion of our membership significantly over the next year, as this is what makes COSCA unique among the many Scottish heritage nonprofits nationwide. (More on that point below.)

At our AGM in December, incumbent officers were reelected to new two-year terms—John Cherry as Vice President, Charlie Sherwood as Secretary, and me as President. At-Large Board Members Bart Forbes, Peter Wilson, and Bruce Whyte were also re-elected, each to new three-year terms. And Ed Ward moved from an At-Large seat to a permanent, two-year term as COSCA's new Treasurer, being elected to succeed our beloved friend and colleague Clark Scott, who died suddenly last summer from COVID-related pneumonia. Finally, COSCA member Mr. J. Scott McCauley, already active in governance in the Clan MacAulay Association, was elected to a three-year At-Large term, filling the seat vacated by Ed Ward when he moved up to Treasurer. Welcome to the Board, Scott!

While on the subject of our Board of Directors, let me thank all of them for their continuing support and assistance. That said, I need to draw your attention to some especially outstanding contributions made by certain members over the past couple of years. These include our Membership Chairman, Scott Swann, our Director of Communications, Bart Forbes, our Newsletter Editor, Bruce Whyte, and our Strategic Planning Committee Chairman, John Cochran. Scott has worked tirelessly to address member issues and concerns surrounding accessing the Members' Only section of our Website, especially around paying dues. (Access credentials often fail to get passed on when officers and other points of contact for Organizational Members change, locking their successors in office out of their COSCA Member accounts and requiring password resets. In addition, checks for dues payments sometimes get lost in the mail or electronic payments fail to get properly credited.) In addition, he has reached out by phone and email to Organizational Members who have fallen by the wayside in recent years, or whose dues are in arrears; in most instances he has successfully gotten them to renew their membership in COSCA. Bart has brought our Website and social media platforms into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, in the process greatly raising our organizational profile in the Scottish heritage community and increasing the number of people we reach through visits to our website and views of our various social media posts. Year after year, Bruce has turned out impressive editions of our newsletter, *The Claymore*—including the one you are reading now. We continue to get complements on both its range of really interesting content and its very professional layout. And John is now taking us into the third year of our long-term Strategic Planning Initiative, with this year's focus to be primarily on new member recruitment. (If you want to volunteer to help out, contact John at [stratplan@cosca.scot](mailto:stratplan@cosca.scot).)

In order to better address many of the growth issues we anticipate tackling this coming year and in the near future, we have expanded our Advisory Board by adding a number of highly experienced individuals from both Scotland and here in the USA. These including two very accomplished women—writer/editor, genealogist, and heraldist Cornelia Wendell Bush of New York, and tartan designer/weaver and business entrepreneur Clare Campbell, owner of [The Prickly Thistle](#) mill, located in the Scottish highlands. They join three distinguished Scottish peers who have been serving with us for many years—Jamie,



Lord Sempill; Andrew Morrison, Viscount Dunrossil; and Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor, Baronet, Chief of Clan Gregor. New additions to our Advisory Board last year included former Congressman Mike McIntyre of North Carolina, founding Co-Chair of the Friends of Scotland Caucus in the U.S. Congress, and Steve Quillin, President of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games (COSCA's "home" games and the place of our founding as an organization, back in 1976). Our current Advisory group is rounded out by the presence of two extremely experienced past Presidents Emeritus of COSCA—Bob McWilliam and Bob Heston.

Most of you have heard me speak many times before, in person and in writing, about the importance to COSCA of partnering with other Scottish heritage nonprofits. Tight finances and changing demographics mean that the old days of every organization going it alone and operating in a silo are gone. Heritage nonprofits need to pool their talents, and resources, to advance common goals and interests. Partnering is a force multiplier that allows COSCA to reach more people, in more locales, while conserving our limited financial and human resources.

To this end, COSCA remains committed to its longtime active involvement in the Scottish Coalition, USA (TSCUSA)—a loose amalgam of five national Scottish heritage organizations of which COSCA is a founding partner, alongside the American-Scottish Foundation (ASF), the Association of Scottish Games & Festivals (ASGF), Scottish Heritage, USA (SHUSA), and the Scottish American Military Society (SAMS). Acting together as TSCUSA, these organizations successfully lobbied Congress back in the 90's for the creation of the National Tartan Day holiday, now recognized by Standing Resolution of both houses of the U.S. Congress on April 6<sup>th</sup> of each year, and meant to recognize the many contributions of Scots, and Scottish-Americans, to the founding and subsequent development of the United States—in all fields of endeavor. Together with its other TSCUSA partners, COSCA each year recognizes a deserving Scottish-American to receive the annual Tartan Day Award, which is presented at a reception in our Nation's Capital, cosponsored by the Friends of Scotland Caucus in the House. (This year the award will go jointly to Former Congressmen John Duncan (R-TN) and Mike McIntyre (D-NC), who together founded the Friends of Scotland Caucus in the Congress in 2002 and co-chaired it for many years.) Largely through TSCUSA's ongoing efforts, the Tartan Day holiday is now celebrated in communities all across our country, with 2023 being the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the National Tartan Day holiday—something of which we should all be proud! And especially proud of COSCA's involvement from the start.

Another important example of successful partnering by COSCA is the annual Scottish North American Community Conference (SNACC), now in its 21<sup>st</sup> year. COSCA is represented on the SNACC Steering Committee, alongside five other U.S. and Canadian Scottish heritage nonprofits, including COSCA's sister organization north of the border—Clans & Scottish Societies of Canada (CASSOC). Acting in concert with their other organizational partners, each year COSCA and CASSOC together plan and implement a three-day international conference on timely subjects of interest to the broad Scottish Diaspora, here and abroad, as well as to our cousins at home in Scotland. The cost of putting on the annual SNACC Conference, whether convened just in person or also remotely, *via Zoom*, as has been the case in recent years, requires a pooling of resources and talent which no one partner organization, acting alone, could muster. But acting in concert, a successful conference gets put together in the fall of each year.

While on the subject of CASSOC, our sister society in Canada, I am happy to report that as an outgrowth of our work together on the SNACC Steering Committee, their President, Bill Petrie, and I have agreed to collaborate more closely this year on issues facing clan and family associations both here in the States and also up in Canada. Bill and I, plus CASSOC's Secretary, JoAnn Tuskin, and COSCA's Secretary, Charlie Sherwood, will be putting our heads together on a plan in the coming months to identify issues needing our joint attention. (This was something COSCA and CASSOC both pledged to explore when our two Boards met together at the Guelph, Ontario Highland Games several years ago.) Stay tuned for more on this front, as it develops.

A fourth important instance of partnering involves COSCA and the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs (SCSC), which is based in Scotland. Begun under my predecessor a decade ago, the COSCA/ SCSC relationship is an important, and symbiotic one: COSCA represents the various Scottish clan and family societies here in the States, while SCSC represents their chiefs in Scotland. Going forward, COSCA and SCSC are intending to set up an inter-organizational working group to look at and address multiple

issues of mutual interest and concern. You, our members, will be hearing much more on this front as the year progresses. For a glimpse at just some of the issues and concerns which SCSC is bringing to the table, I refer you to Lord Dunrossil's article, *Authenticity and Enthusiasm*, which appears elsewhere in this edition of *The Claymore*.

Getting back to the important subject of new member recruitment, we continue to recruit and deploy Regional Commissioners across the country—especially in the Midwest and far West. These individuals are not involved in governance or policymaking; instead they focus solely on what might best be termed “sales and marketing” outreach. Lois Ann Garlitz is already spear-heading this effort for us out West, while Ethan MacDonald is doing the same for us in the Great Lakes Region. But we are looking for others to represent us in the northeast, southeast, and southwest. If you have an outgoing personality and are interested in helping us to promote COSCA membership at highland games and festivals, Burns Suppers, St. Andrew's society meetings, and other Scottish heritage events in your part of the country, please contact me directly for more details, and to volunteer. (We are looking for a half dozen additional individuals from across the country to help us out in this regard.)

At-Large Board Member David McKenzie, who for many years has managed heavy athletic events (caber toss, hammer throw, etc) at numerous east coast games events, is our Highland Games Liaison. I have asked David to work with our Regional Commissioners and others to identify some geographically dispersed highland games events which will be good targets for COSCA to attend. (Because of the cost of games registration and the labor-intensive nature of staffing tents at games, COSCA will need to be very selective, and very strategic in this regard.) In addition, I have asked David to get quotes on streamers bearing our name and logo which we will distribute to clan and family society members to display at games--attaching these to their tent poles and flagstuffs. We hope to get these widely distributed during the coming year. All of these efforts will be aimed at raising COSCA's profile as an organization at highland games across the country.

Finally, I look forward to seeing each of you this year at our planned Clan & Family Caucus, to be held as in past years at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in NC, the second weekend in July. And by popular demand, we will again hold our Annual General Meeting (AGM) remotely, *via Zoom*, toward the end of the calendar year. An online AGM has proved to be a very popular alternative to an in-person event, as it allows members from all across the country to attend and participate without incurring travel costs. Member feedback on this subject has been universally in favor of this option.

Yours aye,

John B.

**John King Bellasai**  
**President, COSCA**  
***j.bellasai@yahoo.com***  
**(202) 258-4876 (cell)**

## Scientific Trivia 1

How many, and which, countries do not use metric measurements?

3 Countries

Liberia

Myanmar

USA

# ENTHUSIASM AND AUTHENTICITY

*Andrew Morrison, Viscount Dunrossil*

I was born and raised on “the other side of the pond,” but moved to the US in my late twenties and have now lived in Texas for over thirty years. The longer I’ve been here, the more passionate I’ve become about my Scottish heritage, and that, of course, is the story of the Scottish diaspora. We here often seem to value what Scots in Scotland take for granted.

On the other hand, friends visiting from Scotland are sometimes bemused, even confused, by some of the ways we express that enthusiasm. Sometimes it looks as if what we are doing no longer bears any relation to actual history or heritage and has taken on a life of its own. The challenge facing a heritage group like COSCA is how to channel that enthusiasm, to keep it as authentically Scottish as possible, without it degenerating into mere fantasy. If you want Game of Thrones, turn on the television.

Balancing the desire for authenticity with the need to nurture and encourage the enthusiasm is not always an easy task. But it is an important one. Scotland is a small but emerging nation, regardless of its legal status within the United Kingdom. To any nation, the concept of soft power, of the way it can spread its influence into the world at large, is an important one, and this is especially true of a country like Scotland. We speak about the five million and the fifty million – the five million who live in Scotland and the fifty million around the world who identify as Scots. Keeping the two groups on the same page, singing from the same song sheet, as it were, matters.

So what are some of the ways we get carried away, where we risk running free from our moorings and sailing off into fantasy land? Some of the more obvious ones concern surnames, clans and families, septs and so on, and the broad area of heraldry and protocol, titles and feathers. It seems we all want to be in a clan and lots of us want to be called a laird or chief and strut around with a feather in our bonnet, brandishing the personal Banner of the King of Scots. Some have invented their own clans and even made up “clan badges” which they’ve registered as US trademarks. Needless to say, the actual clan chiefs find this less than amusing.

Most Scots are not members of a clan, nor were their ancestors. And that’s OK, at least for them. The most common names in Scotland are Smith and Brown. Smith is or was a profession, of course, and there are Smiths all over the country, just like other professions. There is no Clan Smith. Brown is a common hair color, the most common. There is no Clan Brown or Black or Gray (my own hair has turned from dark brown to gray while I’ve been here, but my clan affiliation remains the same).

Even patronymics are not all kindreds. Sam, William and Patrick/Peter are all among the most common forenames in Scotland historically, but there is no clan Simpson or Wilson or Paterson, nor ever was. One of the most common forenames of all is, of course, Andrew, after the patron saint of Scotland. There is no Clan Anderson in Scotland either, but one was founded in the US.

What some refer to as “clan creep” and the absurd proliferation of “septs” listed outside clan society tents are symptoms of this earnest desire to identify with the land of our ancestors and the mistaken belief that it can only be through the medium of a surname. We need to do a better job of developing other ways for people to express and cultivate their love for their heritage. District family associations do exist. Caledonian and St Andrew’s societies are already part of COSCA too. It might be interesting to see modern guilds for the descendants of traditional Scottish professions. It would be fascinating to explore ways Smiths, Taylors, Wrights or Clarks might still be expressing their ancestral skillsets in contemporary society.

These are difficult and delicate issues, but they must be addressed, if we are not to continue to



**Arms of Viscount Dunrossil**



diverge. Authenticity without enthusiasm is dry nothing. Enthusiasm without authenticity is rootless and worthless. We owe it to each other to try to identify where the fulcrum is whereby the two can be properly balanced.

To this end, a small group, with participation from the Standing Council, from COSCA and from the Society of Scottish Armigers, is hoping to produce a paper with guidance and guidelines. Scottish law doesn't extend outside the physical boundaries of Scotland, but it is my belief that most members of the Diaspora who care about their heritage care also about getting it right. Scottish law may not apply, but if one knows the right answer, good manners may be enough to ensure that people show respect for their traditions and their heritage. After all, isn't that what we say we're all about?

## Clan MacKinnon Society Gives Back

*(We previously reported on earlier efforts by Clan MacKinnon in the Claymore, December edition 2021)*

In 2021 the Board of Directors of Clan MacKinnon Society made the decision to set aside funds that the Society could use specifically for philanthropy each year. So now in addition to serving our 460+ membership households across 13 countries, we are also proud to send financial aid to other causes and organizations doing important work tied to Scotland and/or Clan MacKinnon. Since 2021 we have made financial contributions to the following:

**St. Brendan Cemetery, Outer Hebrides:** This remote cemetery is one of the island's important heritage sites. Maintaining the cemetery is a marathon task requiring considerable volunteer manual labor. The Society donated £350 to support ongoing upkeep.

**St. Martin's Church, Kent, UK:** This parish churchyard in Acrise is the final resting place for the 33rd Clan MacKinnon Chief and his son, the 34th Chief. We donated £100 in appreciation for the care and conservation provided to the graves.

**Culloden Battlefield:** The Society sent a \$500 contribution to the National Trust for Scotland to aid in their "Conserve Culloden" campaign against aggressive development in areas surrounding this sacred site.

**John Muir Trust, Skye:** The Society donated \$1,200 to the Trust to support their ongoing projects on Skye. These projects include maintaining hiking trails and paths across the island, native woodland regeneration, beach cleans, litter pick-up, and wildlife monitoring.

**Mull Museum, Scotland:** We donated funds to help the Mull Museum in Tobermory digitize their genealogy and historical records. Then in 2022, we also sent several Scottish historical books to add to the museum's research materials.

**Gerald McKinnon's Book Collection, Nova Scotia, Canada:** The Genealogy Society of Nova Scotia (GANS) received 350 books and research materials donated by Gerald McKinnon, former Clan MacKinnon Society Historian who died in 2021. We helped to fund the transport and one of our members donated countless hours cataloguing it.

**Caisteal Maol Access Path Project, Skye:** This historic Clan MacKinnon seat on Skye was in need of improvements to the hiking path leading up to it, as well as new signage. Heavy machinery and hard work carved a permanent, safe walking trail and new signage now helps to inform visitors.

As one can see, the projects we support are very diverse. We are proud that our Society can have this impact. We hope this inspires other clan organizations to consider giving back in creative ways. The funds, no matter how small or large, have the power to make a big impact and help create wonderful connections across the world.



# Scottish Heritage Scouting Association

**Ethan MacDonald, COSCA Great Lakes Regional Commissioner/ Member, Clan Donald, USA**

Calling all Scouts and Scouters, wherever you may be! There are several folks here in the States who are members of COSCA as well as local Scottish and Clan Societies across the US who are currently coming together to form a new organization, with the aims of promoting Scottish Culture and Heritage within the Boy Scouts of America. Many of us come from scouting backgrounds and have wished to see an organization form where we could do our best to better promote our shared culture and history to America's youth.

Our new group, which we have named the "Scottish Heritage Scouting Association", is currently in its formative months, as we are still gathering the much needed support to properly form. We have started with a facebook page (under the same name) with a linked group. We invite all who are interested in the project to like our page and join the attached Facebook group. If you do not face Facebook however do not fear! Simply send us an email (found below) and we will add you to our growing email list.

So you may be asking what the goals are for this new group? Well they are pretty straightforward. Our top priority is to promote Scottish Culture within American Scouting through education and service. We hope to achieve this by creating resources for scouts and scouters on a wide array of topics such as: how to host a troop highland games, the Scottish history of scouting, highland dress and its use in scouting, and much more! Further we are working on the creation of both a Youth and Adult Award, as well as a Unit Award that individual Troops, Packs, Crews, or Ships can receive by completing community service and bolstering local Scottish cultural organizations.

Our biggest goals for the immediate future are incorporating as a non-profit organization, and attending the 2023 National Jamboree to be held over the summer. We have been offered an area there by the BSA, as they are excited about the project and want to help us grow. Further, upon incorporation we will be joining COSCA as an organizational member, so that we may receive their guidance and support. Our first organizational meeting was held via Zoom on January 15th!



We thank COSCA for the opportunity to share our dream with you. If you are interested in being one of our founding members or in attending the next Zoom Meeting please email us at: [scottishheritagescoutingassoc@gmail.com](mailto:scottishheritagescoutingassoc@gmail.com) and feel free to like 'Scottish Heritage Scouting Association' on Facebook.

# CHIEFS, CLANS AND KIN

## THE SHARED EXPERIENCE OF NATIVE AMERICAN AND GAEL

Last year I was invited to go to Tulsa to attend the opening of an exhibition of work by artists from the so-called “Five Civilized Tribes” (Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muskogee/Creek and Seminole). The exhibition was organized by Laura Marshall Clark, who is part Scot, part Muskogee. Each of the artists also had Scottish or Irish ancestry and the focus of the exhibition was on how the two strands of their heritage (Gaelic and Native American) had so much in common and collectively informed their own art.

Hence my title: “*Chiefs, Clans & Kin*”. It is widely assumed that one of the principal reasons that so many Scots married Native women in the 18<sup>th</sup> century was that they felt a greater affinity with the tribal cultures in America than they did with the Anglo settlers in the plains. Both Gael and Indian felt their land had been stolen from them. Both came from cultures that stressed honor and collective ownership of land and other assets over private property and the law. In each case, the clan or tribe was primary, the individual secondary.

Of course, the natives were facing far superior forces, as the European settlers looked for more and more land. Some leaders, who were comfortable in both cultures, made attempts at finding peaceful settlements, but ultimately with predictable results. Alexander McGillivray (1750-93), whose father was a Scot and whose mother was Creek, fought with the British in the Revolutionary War, as did most Highlanders, and later managed to protect Creek lands in Georgia and Florida by signing a treaty with Spain. But Chief William McIntosh, a classic appeaser, elected to punish any of his fellow Creeks who raided the property of white settlers. He even signed an unauthorized treaty ceding all the Creek lands in Georgia to the Americans, for which he was to pay with his life.

Eventually, all lost their lands and were forced west in the infamous [Trail of Tears](#). They settled in what was then called Indian Territory, beyond the frontier, only for this land too to be invaded and to become, in time, the State of Oklahoma.

At the opening of the art exhibition, I was joined by the current chief of the Muskogee, David Hill, who presented me with a medallion bearing the great seal of the Muskogee Nation. In my remarks I brought them greetings from the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs (SCSC) and from the Council of Scottish Clans and Associations (COSCA).

Earlier in the day, I had lunch with a former principal chief of the Cherokees, Ross Swimmer, who, as the name Ross indicates, also has Highland ancestry. Chief Swimmer was Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs and later, Special Trustee for American Indians at the Department of the Interior.

I also had the pleasure of meeting the principal chief of the Osage Nation, Geoffrey Standing Bear. Like Chief Ross, Chief Geoffrey is an attorney who had represented native causes in court before being elected chief. But unlike the Cherokee and Muskogee, the Osage were local to the area. They are related to the Dakota/Sioux and came into Oklahoma from southern Missouri and not from the southeast. Again, I brought greetings from SCSC and COSCA and we spent a fascinating hour exploring the common experience of Gael and Indian.

I told him that King James VI had commissioned a company of Fife volunteers to “colonize” the Outer Hebrides, where my ancestors lived, and, when that failed, ordered the first Marquis of Huntly to “extirpate within a year the barbarous peoples of the Isles.” All this before the Mayflower and the Jamestown settlements were dispatched to “civilize” America for King and Country! I also compared the Highland Clearances to the Trail of Tears. In 1745, over half the population of Scotland still lived in the Highlands and spoke Gaelic as their first language. Today, less than 10% live in the Highlands. The hills are bare and silent, except for the deer and the tourists.



**Ross Swimmer**



After the initial shock of physical dispossession, the main challenge in each case has been to preserve the languages in which our principally oral traditions have been embedded. In both Scotland and America, missionaries and schools forcibly promoted assimilation. We have read much recently about the awful Indian schools in North America, where native children were deprived of their culture. In the same way, the Church of Scotland tried to stamp out Gaelic, which it called “the language of superstition.” Chief Geoffrey recently commissioned a new alphabet, which promises to make Osage traditions accessible to all Sioux peoples, including the Lakota and Dakota Sioux in the north, as well as the Omaha in the west.



**Standing Bear**

I have often felt, both in Oklahoma and in New Mexico, that Native American people have done a better job of preserving key elements of their culture than have the Gaels, especially in Scotland itself, where fewer than one percent of the population now speaks

the original language of the Scots (and no, that’s not the so-called “Scots” language, which until 1500 was more properly and commonly known as “Inglis”). There is so much we can learn and much we share as indigenous peoples.

This sense of affinity is not new. In March 1847, on hearing of the awful famine afflicting the people of Ireland, the Choctaw nation in Oklahoma, themselves hardly wealthy, raised \$170 which they donated to the people of Ireland. In 2017 a monument was dedicated in County Cork to the generosity of the Choctaw. It’s name is Kindred Spirits.



**Kindred Spirit**

Before leaving, I was invited to come back and attend a pow-wow someday. It sounds like a lot of fun, as well as a means through which native traditions are celebrated, honored, and passed on. In fact, it sounds a lot like a Highland Games.

*Andrew Morrison, Viscount Dunrossil*

## Scientific Trivia 2

Do you know the actual scientific definition of one (1) meter/metre?

No, I did not think so. Which of these is correct?

39.3700787402 inches

1/10,000,000<sup>th</sup> of the distance from the equator to the North Pole

1/10,000,000<sup>TH</sup> of the distance from the equator to the South Pole

length of the path travelled by light in a vacuum during the time interval of 1/299,792,458<sup>th</sup> of a second

Answer in the next edition of *The Claymore*.

# Society of Antiquaries of Scotland



What is the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and why is it included in this issue of *Claymore*? The Society was founded in 1780 and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1783. The Society's purpose is "*to investigate both antiquities and natural and civil history in general, with the intention that the talents of humanity should be cultivated and that the study of natural and useful sciences should be promoted*". It has been around for 240 years supporting the study and enjoyment of Scotland's past.

News from this organization has been included because of the extensive work they do in learning more of our past cultures and peoples. Carson C. Smith of the Scottish Society of Indianapolis, referred the latest newsletter from this Society to COSCA. The cover picture noted the *End of Dig Season 2022*. When I saw this issue, it reminded me of the time I visited this region that encompasses so much history, archeological work, in so many discrete areas. This triggered me to dig deeper to spread the knowledge of how this tiny part of the world has helped us understand so much more of the world at large! *Our Dig It!* project made headlines in late 2022 as they marked the end of the national Scotland Digs 2022 campaign celebrating the archaeological activity that took place across the country this summer.

# Ancient Civilizations in Orkney

Bruce MacGregor Whyte, Editor, Photographer, Navigator

## Part 1 of 2

We were four sailors on *Tainui*, a 43-foot sailing boat ex New Zealand, when we sailed into Kirkwall, Orkney at the end of the tourist season. We were secured into the marina by the dock master, who, after some leisurely chit chat, offered to give us a tour of the mainland. We thought that a bit odd since we were on an island north of mainland Scotland, but that is what they call their largest island. He was a local, a cab driver, and knew the diggers at “the Ness” where the University of Glasgow was closing the dig for winter. So, we piled into his “compact” cab and headed off. He took us to Neolithic sites and other sites, such as restoration works on classic wooden boats.

There are at least 14 Neolithic sites within a two mile radius of each other in this area. The most prominent and most examined are Ness of Brodgar, Stones of Stenness, the Ring of Brodgar, Maeshowe, and the Barnhouse settlement to mention some. This brief article examines only three, Ness, Ring and the more interesting Skara Brae, a few miles NW of Ness of Brodgar.



What is a Neolithic site? Neolithic means New Stone and this period is sometimes called the New Stone Age. The Neolithic period lasted from about 8,000BC to 2,000BC. It roughly spans the final period of cultural evolution characterized by stone tools shaped by polishing or grinding as compared to the use of chipped tools that were used in the immediately preceding paleolithic period and metal tools of the bronze age.

The oldest is Ness of Brodgar (Ness, 3,500 BC), followed by Skara Brae (Skara, 3,200 BC,) and the Ring of Brodgar (Ring, 3,100 BC). Ness and the Ring are henge-like circular stone structures and will be discussed in the next issue of *Claymore*. Skara, presented here, is an underground village with all modern amenities.

## Skara Brae, 3,200 BC

*“I hear, says the writer in The Bulletin, that the excavations at Skerrabrae in Orkney, which attracted so much attention last year, are to be resumed at an early date.*

*“Professor V. Gordon Childe will again co-operate with the representatives of the Office of Works.*

*“There are still some problems to be solved, and its hoped that this season’s researches will throw a flood of light on the period of the underground structures and the people who dwelt in them.”*

*The Orcadian, July 4, 1929*



Naturally, there is a dispute on the originality of the Skara discovery reported by *The Orcadian*. The idea that Skara Brae was unknown until it was uncovered by the storm of 1850 is “a complete fiction”, according to Orcadian historian Dr Ernest Marwick.

In an article in *The Orcadian* newspaper in 1967, Dr Marwick said: “In his Observations made in a Tour of the islands of Orkney and Shetland in the year 1769, James Robertson wrote of the square catacombs in the Downs of Skail, and said that in one a skeleton was found with a sword in one hand and a Danish axe in the other.”



This site was the most exciting and illuminating of all sites we visited. Skara was originally an inland village of 10 structures beside a freshwater loch. All ten of the structures were well built of flat stone slabs, set into large mounds of midden and linked by stone covered passageways. Each house had a single room, its floor space roughly 40sq m (431 square feet) with a large central room containing a stone hearth for cooking and heating. Skara was more than just a collection of simple housing. It was underground but had all modern amenities. We may not think simple stone shelving, cabinets, protected bed space with stone privacy curtains, and a separate cooking area with stone stools to sit on to be modern amenities. But what other hotel offered those sorts of amenities. And, just to add even more luxury, you could have your own privvy with running water. This is what largely distinguishes Skara from all others found to date. Seven houses have almost identical layouts and furniture all located in similar positions.

The following is a description of the picture at the top of the page, probably a woman's bedroom. From left to right: an enclosed bed with a cabinet above the bed, stone privacy curtain, a couple of shelves, a higher cabinet; then a living room with a four piece display/storage cabinet; a larger man's stone bed with higher cabinet/shelf on the right; and a central hearth and stone stools in the middle front. The dressers were usually against the wall opposite the door. Entry to the house was through a low doorway that had a stone slab door that could be shut and locked “by a bar that slid in bar-holes cut in the stone door jambs”. A number of dwellings offered a small, connected antechamber, offering access to a partially covered stone drain leading away from the village. It is suggested that these chambers served as indoor privies.

Each of these houses had the larger bed on the right side of the doorway and the smaller on the left, a pattern accorded with Hebrides custom up to the early 20th century. This suggests that the husband's bed was the larger and the wife's was the smaller. The discovery of beads and paint-pots in



some of the smaller beds may support this interpretation.

Additional support may come from the recognition that stone boxes lie to the left of most doorways, forcing the person entering the house to turn to the right-hand, “male”, side of the dwelling. At the front of each bed lie the stumps of stone pillars that may have supported a canopy of fur, another link with recent Hebridean style.

One house has no storage boxes or dresser and has been divided into something resembling small cubicles. Fragments of stone, bone and antler were excavated suggesting the house may have been used to make tools such as bone needles or flint axes. The presence of heat-damaged volcanic rocks and what appears to be a flue, support this interpretation. This house is distinctive in another way as it is a stand-alone structure not surrounded by midden; instead it is above ground with walls over two metres (6.6 ft) thick and has a “porch” protecting the entrance.

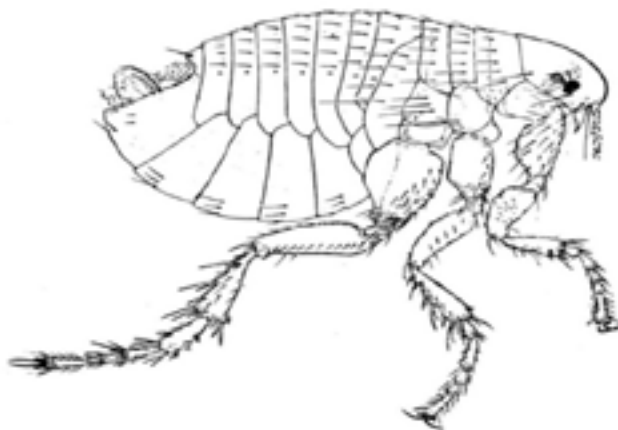
Individual house were linked with an underground network of alley ways. These were covered with stone slabs on which grasses grew. They were not very high (48 inches) or wide (24 inches) as can be seen in the right hand picture on the previous page. There is what appears to be a window on the right hand wall. It is a window, but not the original. The daughter of the landholder on whose property Skara was found, wanted more light inside so the window was added.

A rich array of artefacts and natural remains has been discovered during various archaeological excavations. These covered a wide range of more advanced art and perhaps play things. The carved ball here looks all the world like a pickle ball in 2023. Makes one wonder if they played a similar sport 4,000 years ago. And the carved figurine at right would be quite at home in the Guggenheim Museum in New York.

The villagers were farmers, hunters and fishermen who were able to produce beautiful and complex items using basic tools. No weapons have been found and the village was not in a readily defended location, both of which suggest a peaceful life.

No one knows why village life seems to have ended around 2500 BC. Some argue that a huge sandstorm covered the houses. Others believe it was a more gradual process.

**But**, it's greatest enduring and endearing global claim to fame may just be that this site provided the earliest known record of the human flea (*Pulex irritans*) in Europe!



# NATIVE AMERICAN INDIANS AND SCOTS

(Bruce MacGregor Whyte, Editor)

It may surprise you to discover that the Scottish people have a lengthy history in Oklahoma that is deeply intertwined with the Native American people who inhabited “Indian Territory” before Oklahoma achieved statehood. Scottish immigrants had established a pattern of marrying Native American women in the southeast prior to the beginning of forced Native migration, so it was not uncommon for tribal leaders to have Scottish surnames, such as McIntosh or McCurtain. As Scottish immigrants and their Native American wives and mixed-blood families moved west, many settled in what is now Oklahoma.

Scottish immigrants and Scottish-Native American men worked as trappers, explorers, soldiers, and traders in the southeast. However, after moving west, they began participating in mining activities, ranching, and farming. By the 1920’s, 1,120 first-generation Scottish immigrants were living in Oklahoma, while an additional 3,819 people with one or both parents born in Scotland were also living in the state.

**Why did Scottish men and Native American women partner so frequently?** Besides the financial incentives that came from improving trade relationships between tribes and Europeans, the two groups had many things in common. Scottish Highlanders and Native Americans are both indigenous people in their homelands and have an ancestral tribal structure, unlike the British monarchy. The Scottish Highlands provided a harsh physical environment that hardied the Scots, much like what the Native Americans experienced in what would become the United States. Additionally, both understood the frustration and pain that comes from forced subjugation to the British.



Creek

Many of the Creek, Cherokee, Choctaw, and Chickasaw people who came to Oklahoma in the 1830’s had Scots and Scots-Irish ancestry. Later some tribe members married Scottish immigrants who were seeking land in Oklahoma Territory. As a result, Scottish place-names that dot the state include Afton, Glencoe, and McIntosh County. Although some Scottish men did later leave their Native wives to return back across the Atlantic, many stayed and continued to raise their children in mixed Scottish-Native homes.

**Just how intertwined were the Scottish and the Native Americans?** In 1964, the principal Chief of the Creek Nation of Oklahoma, who had the last name “McIntosh,” wore full Native regalia, including a headdress, beaded shirt, and moccasins, to the annual gathering of his clan in the Scottish Highlands. Standing there amongst the Scots dressed in kilts, sporrans, and dirks, he talked about his pride in his dual Creek-Scottish ancestry and the intertwining of the two cultures.

Commemorating this ancestry, Oklahoma has multiple tartans registered with the Scottish Tartans Authority: the Creek Indian Nation tartan was designed in 1973 by Chief Dode MacKintosh, the City of Tulsa tartan was designed in 1978, the Cherokee tartan was recorded in 1996, the official State of Oklahoma tartan was accepted in 1999 and the Oklahoma State University tartan was entered in 1998. In the 1920’s, 1,120 first generation Scottish immigrants were living in Oklahoma, which increased to 80 years later to



52,030 Oklahoman's claiming Scottish ancestry. In the ensuing 10 years, this had increased to over 67,500.

**What is Scotfest:** This is the Longs Peak Scottish Irish Highland Festival, held at Estes Park, Colorado. These Games seek to highlight, among other themes, native American Indians and their cultures.

**Scotfest highlights scottish culture:** As we say in Tulsa, "In March you're Irish, in Oktober you're German, in September you're Scottish!" You don't have to know anything about Scottish and Celtic culture to enjoy the delicious tastes and exciting sights and sounds of Scotfest. Scotfest is designed to provide exposure to Scottish and Celtic culture through the inclusion of as many elements of Scottish heritage as possible, including the opportunity to try traditional Scottish food like haggis, scotch eggs, and Scottish meat pies.

**Strong Ties Between Scotland and the U.S.:** One of the main missions of *Scotfest* is to strengthen ties between Scotland and the United States. It's no secret that many people in the United States have Scottish and Celtic ancestry. In fact, it is estimated that about 8.3 percent of the total US population is of Scottish descent, while about 10 percent of the population is of Scottish-Irish descent, a total of about 40 million people! By helping those with Scottish heritage, whether long-known or recently discovered, connect with their ancestral home, we help to foster strong ties between Scotland and the United States. Scotfest also improves cultural awareness and enhances understanding of Scottish and Celtic culture. Many people who do not have Scottish or Celtic heritage or who may not have been exposed to traditional elements of the culture in the past. They say that the best way to understand someone is to take a walk in their shoes, but we think there's no substitute for wearing their kilt.

"May the warm winds of Heaven Blow softly upon your house  
May the Great Spirit Bless all who enter there  
May your Moccasins Make happy tracks in many snows, and  
May the Rainbow Always touch your shoulder."

~ Cherokee Blessing ~

Scottish Highlanders and Native Americans encountered each other frequently on America's wild frontier - fighting, trading, and living together. While Highlanders had been traveling to America since the 1600s, one of the first major waves of migration came after the Jacobite defeat at Culloden in 1745.



Cherokee

Native Scots became particularly active in the fur and deerskin trading areas occupied by the Creek, Choctaw, and Cherokee tribes. Alexander McGillivray, the son of a Scottish trader father and a Creek-French mother, was a dominant chief of the powerful Creek confederacy in the late eighteenth century, and played a pivotal role conducting the tribe's foreign policies with Britain, Spain, and the United States.

Scots-Indian John Ross was the principal chief of the Cherokees during the era of Indian Removal around 1830, when 80,000 tribal peoples were expelled from their homelands east of the Mississippi to new lands in the West. DNA research suggests that up to a half of the Cherokee Nation could be descendants of Ludovick Grant. He was a laird's son from Creichie in Aberdeenshire who was captured while fighting for the Jacobite army and due to be hanged. Instead he was transported to South Carolina where he eventually began working as a trader for the Cherokee people and married into the tribe.

His daughter is believed to be the ancestor of a huge proportion of Cherokees. This tartan was presented to the Cherokee tribe by Scottish Heritage USA at Grandfather Mountain Games in 1996.

Art Notes for "Warriors" by Robert Griffing: "When the Highlander was summoned to the American frontier to fight on behalf of The Crown, he formed an instant kinship with his Native American counterpart. Tribe and clan were remarkably similar in temperament and philosophy and both cultures produced highly skillful and courageous fighters. In this scene, a Cherokee warrior and Highlander scout in advance of Grant's disastrous expedition against Fort Duquesne. Sadly, both cultures eventually crumbled beneath the oppressive weight of British expansion."

Curious? For more on this special day and associated tartan details and colours, [visit their website](#).

# ICC T20 World Cup

What is the first thing you think about when someone mentions Scotland?

Correct! It's cricket. OK, some license here, but let me explain.

Recently, Australia hosted the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Men's T20 World Cup where 16 countries qualified to compete.

The usual giants of cricket include Australia, England, India, West Indies etc qualified but so did teams from Scotland, Ireland, The Netherlands and Afghanistan.

How did I get involved?

I currently live in Tasmania and the first round of matches that were played in Hobart included Scotland, Ireland, West Indies, Zimbabwe etc

The ICC were looking for local Ambassadors to help promote the teams in the lead up to the T20 tournament so they approached the British Consulate to see if they could suggest someone in Tasmania for Scotland and Ireland.

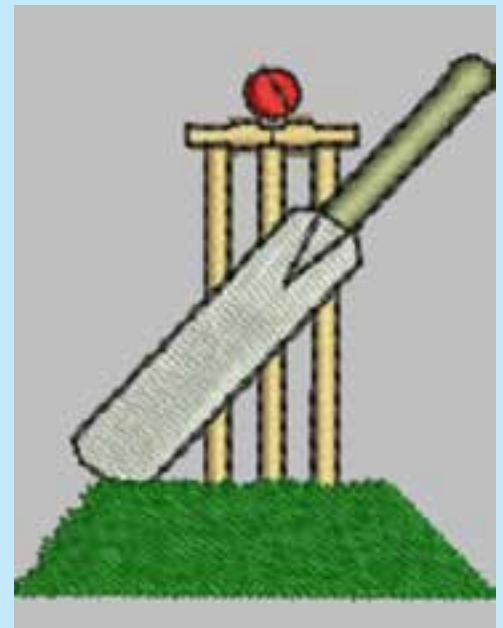
This is the moment my name was put forward by the British Consulate and it became quite a busy but very enjoyable time assisting the ICC with promoting Scotland and working with the Scottish team to make them feel welcome in Tasmania.

Scotland's first game was against the West Indies and they won. It was such a morale booster for the lads playing in the purple colours.

When the media was promoting the event and they needed fans from the different countries so I involved my son Angus McGregor who was happy to be in his kilt and be a part of it all. The great thing about this was that all the photos used for Scotland's supporters was seeing the MacGregor tartan.

To help the cricketers from Scotland and Ireland feel at home in Australia, we put on an event hosted by the British Consulate to meet and greet with Irish and Scottish diaspora who now live in Tasmania.

Surprisingly, the Irish were quiet and kept to themselves but the Scottish team were amazing ambassadors for Scotland and did their best to mingle with all the guests invited and happy to have selfies with everyone. In fact, when it was time to go, it was hard to get the Scottish players to leave because they so enjoyed the hospitality of the British Consulate and their guests.



I also arranged a visit for the some of the Scottish team to visit the Whisky Club in Hobart but unfortunately, they couldn't sample anything as they were playing that day. You may not be aware that a Tasmanian Whisky won the World's Best Whisky in 2014. The Scots were not happy with that at the time.

Finally, I was watching the game between Scotland and Ireland in the ICC Corporate Hospitality box with the Deputy Irish Ambassador to Ireland and he received a phone call from family in Ireland. They asked him what he was doing and he said he was watching a cricket game between Ireland and Scotland. His family's response

*"Ireland plays Cricket?"*

P.S. The tour manager for Scotland gave me a Scottish team tartan tie as a thank you.

**Frank McGregor**

**Honorary Consul General for the United Kingdom, Tasmania**

**High Commissioner for Clan Gregor Australia**



*Frank McGregor far right and his son Angus to his right*

- |   |                   |   |                    |   |                             |
|---|-------------------|---|--------------------|---|-----------------------------|
|  | <b>Australia</b>  |  | <b>Ireland</b>     |  | <b>Scotland</b>             |
|  | <b>Afganistan</b> |  | <b>Namibia</b>     |  | <b>South Africa</b>         |
|  | <b>Bangladesh</b> |  | <b>Netherlands</b> |  | <b>Sri Lanka</b>            |
|  | <b>England</b>    |  | <b>New Zealand</b> |  | <b>United Arab Republic</b> |
|  | <b>India</b>      |  | <b>Pakistan</b>    |  | <b>West Indies</b>          |
|   |                   |  | <b>Zimbabwe</b>    |   |                             |





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**Cornelia W. Bush**



**Stephen Quillin**



**Clare Campbell**

## 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*

*316 Regal Dr*

*Lawrenceville, GA, 30046*

[Membership@COSCA.Scot](mailto:Membership@COSCA.Scot)

[www.COSCA.Scot](http://www.COSCA.Scot)



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Communication Chair



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At-Large Director



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