



CLAYMORE

Newsletter of the Council of Scottish Clans & Associations

December 2024



Happy Hogmanay to all
and
Happy New Year when it comes

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN - December, 2024



I trust everyone had a good Christmas and is looking forward to a Happy New Year. I just wanted to leave you with a few thoughts on your COSCA governance group's plans for the organization in the New Year, as outlined at our recent Annual General Meeting (AGM), held remotely, *via Zoom*.

Highlights from SNACC 2024 Conference. Many of you were able to join us, either in person or remotely, *via Zoom*, on December 6th & 7th for the annual Scottish North American Community Conference (SNACC), held once again in Old Town Alexandria, VA, in conjunction with the annual Scottish Xmas Walk Parade. Now in its 22nd year, SNACC is cosponsored by COSCA along with six other U.S. and Canadian Scottish heritage organizations (the American-Scottish Foundation out of NYC, the St. Andrew's societies of Illinois (Chicago Scots), Detroit, and Toronto, the Scottish Studies Foundation at the University of Guelph, in Ontario, and the Scottish-American Women's Society (SAWS). COSCA strongly believes

in the power of partnering as a way to share costs and strengthen the bonds of fellowship with like-minded heritage nonprofits. This year's SNACC speakers included Former First Minister of Scotland and prolific author Henry McLeish; noted Scottish writer and playwright Sir John McEwen, now Commander of his Clan and pending confirmation by Lyon Court as Chief of the Name & Arms; Ian Douglas Cochrane, 15th Earl of Dundonald and Chief of his clan, together with his eldest son and heir, Archie, Lord Cochrane; Rory Hedderly from Entrepreneurial Scotland's Saltire Initiative; and others, plus welcoming remarks from Colin Gray, newly appointed Head of the Scottish Gov't Office in the USA, and Bill Campbell, Lord Provost of Dundee. All their remarks, plus all the panel discussions over the two-day conference are now being posted on the SNACC conference Website (at www.scottishleadershipconference.com/). There will be no charge to listen to the conference recordings.

Sell-off of Parish Churches in Scotland. Elsewhere in this edition of *The Claymore* you will read about the now accelerating process by the Church of Scotland to sell off literally thousands of historic church properties across Scotland—from the Borders throughout the Highlands and Western Isles, and from Ayr in the west to Moray in the east. We all have ancestors buried in the churchyards out back of these buildings. What will happen to their graves, and to the parish churches in which generations of our forbearers worshipped before leaving Scotland and joining the Diaspora? COSCA will continue to cover this story that affects us all, as it unfolds. But this is a particular wakeup call for Scottish clan and family societies to step up financially to protect these endangered properties located in their old clan lands. Much more to come on this subject . . .

Donations Requested of Clan Societies by Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. As has been reported in the previous edition of this newsletter, GMHG suffered damage to its assets and infrastructure on and around Macrae Meadows as a result of Hurricane Helene. Of particular concern is the winding mountain road leading up Grandfather Mountain to the games site, which was severely damaged along its entire length and washed away in spots. Though it is a county road, only private donations can get it repaired and reopened in time for the next games season, starting in July, given the widespread extent of damage throughout Avery County. GMHG has reached out to the various clan and family societies who regularly set up at those games, and to COSCA, asking each for a \$500 tax-deductible donation toward these repairs. COSCA was founded at GMHG in 1976 and it has long been our 'home games.' So COSCA has pledged and disbursed the requested amount to GMHG and encourages all our Organizational Members to do the same.

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COSCA Partners with USA Kilts. We are kicking off the new business partnership with USA Kilts as of the first of the year. Look for a blog interview with owner Rocky Roeger, to be produced by our own John Cochran and Rhonda Wardlaw in the coming weeks—an audio and video interview which will be posted on the COSCA Website. Generous discounts for COSCA members on kilts and other highland-wear items by USA Kilts will be widely advertised in the lead-up to the 2025 highland games season. Look for more information coming soon both on our Website and in this newsletter.

Privacy Policy – A Best Practice. Many Organizational Members have expressed interest in adopting a privacy policy to cover member information and other sensitive data on their Websites and in their databases, especially in light of new legal requirements in this area by many states for nonprofit membership corporations registered there. While this is a decision that must be made by the governance group of each individual clan and family association, working in consultation with their communications teams, membership chairs, and possibly legal counsel, a generic template might prove useful, at least on an interim basis. So we offer the following:

(Name of organization) collects general information about its members, both Individual and Organizational, for the purposes of communicating with them about association business matters; providing newsletters, email blasts, and other periodic communications of general interest; and processing membership dues and other financial transactions, using a secure website.

Periodically, _____ provides a membership list to current members. But _____ does not share members' names or contact information with any outside third parties; does not sell our membership list nor provide access to it by other nonprofits; and does not share our membership list for commercial purposes.

Individual Members, as distinct from Organizational Members, of our association may opt out of having their personal contact information shared with other members by contacting _____, our Membership Chair, in writing or by email.

New Board Members elected. Congratulations to John Cochran, our longest-serving Board Member, on his election this week to a two-year term as Vice President of COSCA. John is long active in the Clan Cochrane Society, where he is *sennachie* to their Chief, Lord Dundonald. John will continue to chair COSCA's Strategic Planning Committee and continue to serve on our Inter-Organizational Working Group with the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs. John is about to muster out of the U.S. Army and join the private sector. Best of luck to John as he transitions to new responsibilities! And join me in also welcoming to a full three-year term as At-Large Director David Pickens. (David had been appointed previously to fill out the balance of Peter Wilson's term after Peter's resignation from our Board, and has now been elected in his own right.) Long active in governance in the Clan Cunninghame Society, David served previously on the COSCA Board, back more than a decade ago. Welcome back, David!

New Regional Commissioners Appointed. COSCA Past President Bob Heston (Clan Henderson Society) has been appointed to fill the Mountain States Regional Commissioner slot recently vacated by Lois Ann Garlitz, who has stepped back due to health reasons. And Emma Saggars (Clan Forsyth Society) has been appointed to fill the very busy Mid-Atlantic States Regional Commissioner slot. They join Ethan MacDonald (Upper Midwest Regional Commissioner) and Lewis Johnson (Southeast Regional Commissioner). Other regional commissioner slots remain to be filled—West Coast, Upper Northwest,

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Plains States, Southwest, Gulf States, and Northeast. If you are an outgoing personality interested in helping promote COSCA membership to other individuals and heritage nonprofits, and interested in serving in one of these regional commissioner positions, please contact me directly for more information on duties and responsibilities.

New Talent Recruitment Committee. COSCA's Youth Engagement Coordinator, At-Large Director Rhonda Wardlaw, has been given responsibility to chair our new Talent Recruitment Committee. She is now staffing up her committee to go to work this coming year. Interested in serving? Contact Rhonda directly, at rbentleywardlaw@gmail.com. Rhonda and her fellow committee members are being charged with the responsibility to create a talent pipeline by seeking out, recruiting, interviewing, and vetting qualified and experienced candidates for other COSCA committee assignments, open regional commissioner slots, and possible Board vacancies, as these arise. Special emphasis will be placed on recruiting younger members and female members of COSCA for these governance positions. And particular attention will be paid to individuals with prior experience in leadership roles and/or tent staffing experience in their respective clan or family associations, or who have worked in leadership roles in other nonprofit organizations. COSCA is not interested in promoting resume-builders but rather outward-looking, team-oriented workers! So if that's you, we'd love for you to step forward and volunteer!

Starlink Pilot at GMHG This July. Connectivity at the GMHG site in NC has long been a problem not only for COSCA but for the clan and family societies which annually attend that event. A combination of mountain geography and a high volume of cell phone use at any given time by thousands of attendees on the games field at once has long been a problem, making it difficult to impossible to hold a Board meeting, or Members' meeting, remotely, *via Zoom*, from that location. COSCA plans to set up a pilot at our tent at GMHG to see how well Starlink can support a *Zoom* meeting from the difficult topography of MacRae Meadows, on the side of Grandfather Mountain—tallest peak in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Come by the COSCA tent at GMHG in July to see how well the experiment works.

Sponsored Athletic Awards at GMHG. Last year's pilot effort at GMHG to award athletic trophies to both male and female athletes competing in heavy athletic events was a success, as reported in the last edition of this newsletter. We will repeat the process in 2025, and have specially commissioned trophies presented to the top all-around male and female competitors.

Blanket Insurance Policy for Clan Society Tents. There has been much interest expressed of late to have COSCA explore whether there is one or more large insurers of nonprofit organizations which would be interested in offering a blanket policy to all clan and family associations which are COSCA members to cover their liability at tent setups at highland games. This would be similar to the blanket policy which has long been offered to all highland games and festivals which are members of the Association of Scottish Games & Festivals (ASGF). I have asked our outgoing Vice President, John Cherry, who is now moving to an At-Large seat on our Board of Directors, to canvas the nonprofit insurance industry and come up with some possible carriers. Stay tuned!

Yours aye,
John B.

John King Bellassai, JD, President, Council of Scottish Clans & Associations
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Eric Liddell Anniversary Celebration

Coming to the U.S.

On Friday, July 11, 1924, a Scotsman stunned the world

At the Olympic Games in Paris, sprinter Eric Liddell won the gold medal in the 400-meter race. But his best event – the one in which he was expected to compete and win – was the 100-meter. However, the qualifying heat for that race was to be held on a Sunday, a

day he honored as the Sabbath. So, he declined to run in that race, choosing instead the more grueling 400m. Not only did he win, but he did it in record time, becoming a national hero and an instant Scottish icon.



Then, on Monday, June 29, 1925, “The Flying Scotsman” stunned the world again.

Liddell left his fame and Scotland behind to become a Christian missionary to China. He had been born there to Scottish missionary parents and always felt in his heart the need to return and continue that work. There he met and married a nurse, Florence Mackenzie, and they started a family. When Japan invaded China in 1941, he sent the family to Canada, choosing to remain a short while to help navigate the chaos. But in 1943, Eric and hundreds of other “enemy nationals” were interned in a prison camp. He served in many roles – teacher, preacher, counselor, and sports organizer – all while lifting the spirits of his fellow detainees.



Five months before the camp was liberated at the end of WWII, Eric Liddell died from an undetected brain tumor. Once again, the world was stunned.

The Oscar-winning movie *Chariots of Fire* told the first part of Eric’s story. But telling the full story truly defines who Eric Liddell was and has the potential to positively impact current and future generations around the globe. The following is how that’s being done and how Scots in America can help.

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary

The Eric Liddell Community is an Edinburgh-based charity whose mission is to provide specialist dementia care, tackle loneliness and isolation, and preserve Eric’s legacy. In 2022, we launched The Eric Liddell 100 to commemorate the centennial anniversary of his gold medal performance at the 1924 Paris Games. Events in Scotland have included sports competitions, an awards ceremony, an exhibit at Parliament, and a special service at St. Giles Cathedral, attended by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, Princess Anne, Patron of the Eric Liddell 100. Also in attendance were Eric’s oldest daughter, Patricia Liddell Russell, and his niece, Sue Liddell Caton.

But The Eric Liddell 100 didn't want to celebrate only that achievement. We recognized the anniversary as an opportunity to promote values inspired by Eric – Passion, Compassion, and Integrity – to audiences of all ages in Scotland and beyond. We're doing so by sharing how Eric's story and these values are relevant today, using four platforms to do that: Education, Sports, Culture, and Faith.

The programs and resources that follow have been successfully used in the UK and are ***now being offered for free to Americans***. Most are available as simple downloads from our website (www.ericliddell.org/100/US). While they were created in Scotland, the materials can be customized for use in the U.S. Please share this article and/or web address with friends and family who you think would be interested in these ideas and information.

Sports Resources

The Eric Liddell 100 offers a free Sports Event Toolkit that includes customizable tools and ideas to promote the Values through new or existing events, such as Scottish/Highlands Games or school field days (e.g., staging an Eric Liddell 100-meter dash).

Educational Resources

Developed by educational experts in Scotland in conjunction with The Eric Liddell 100 and adaptable for U.S. use, the free educational resources promote the Values through a curriculum that features Social Studies, Science, Mathematics, Languages, Health and Wellbeing, Religion, and the Arts. Included are lesson plans, videos, presentations, worksheets, and other support materials. An online learning course also is available for adults interested in learning more about Eric's life, work, and achievements.

Cultural Resources

For National Tartan Day festivities, The Eric Liddell 100 is developing ideas and materials that can be used by local event organizers to incorporate recognition of Eric's gold medal anniversary and introduce the new tartan plaid – with colors inspired by Eric's life – created exclusively for this centennial by Kinloch Anderson.

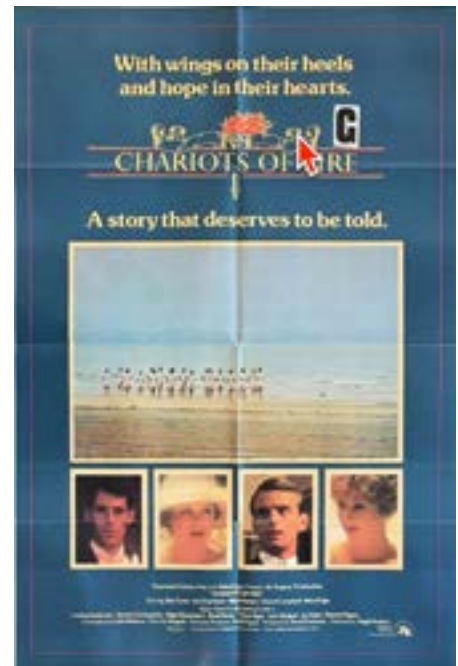
Faith Resources

While 2024 was the 100th anniversary of Eric winning the gold medal, in 2025 we will celebrate a second anniversary: Sunday, June 29, 100 years to the day that Eric left Scotland to answer his calling to mission work in China. We envision churches promoting their own call to missions and have developed free materials to support that, including sample sermons, Bible studies, and videos.

Help Us Spread the Word!

Sharing Eric's life story and the lessons to be learned from it are an excellent way to promote and preserve Scottish heritage. Help us spread the word to the members of your clan through emails, newsletters, or gatherings. It is particularly timely now as we continue the centennial celebration of Eric's achievements in the new year. We hope you'll join with us!

Should you have any questions or need additional information, contact Mart Martin, The Eric Liddell 100 US Ambassador, at mmartin@3keyquestions.com.



Duncarron Medieval Village



Duncarron is a full-scale wood replica of a 12th-century fortified medieval village located in Scotland's Carron Valley about ten miles southwest of Stirling, and seven miles west of Denny. It is an open-air museum complete with reenactors using replica tools and artifacts of the Scottish medieval period in authentic period buildings, from round houses to great halls, towers, smithies, bakers, etc.

Over the past twenty-nine years, members of The Clanranald Trust have been heavily involved in the film industry as special actors from Combat International. They and many other volunteers have built Duncarron exclusively using period tools and techniques. The film industry, (e.g., Outlander, etc.) have used Duncarron for accurate period location settings.



Until around 1996, the Scottish school system did not permit the teaching of native culture and heritage. As a result, little to no instruction regarding the foundational beginning of Scotland under the Celts, nor the history of Scottish freedom led by heroes such as William Wallace and Robert the Bruce. Additionally, the only remaining structures from the medieval period are stone castles revealing nothing regarding the life common folk. Charlie Allan, the CEO of Clanranald Trust, set his life goal to help correct this egregious lack of historical education by building Duncarron to depict Scotland's colorful past. The Scottish Department of Forestry provided Charlie six locations to choose from, resulting in a permanent site leased from the Forestry. He selected the current location because of its proximity to many Scottish schools. It is open to the public for tours and hosts many events and activities throughout the Spring, Summer and Fall.

The name, Duncarron, is comprised of Dun, the Scots Gaelic word for fort, and Carron, the name of the valley in which it is located. The Duncarron symbol was created to represent the Clan concept, just as were ancient Celtic and Pictish Ogham and rune symbols. The Duncarron symbol represents strength and purpose of life which arise from the unity within the Clanranald Trust family.



DUNCARRON SYMBOL

Clan Forsyth History

Early Origins Within The Household Of The Scottish Kings Robert The Bruce And Robert II, Through The Nuances Of History And Politics, To A Clan Reunited.

Written and researched by Emma Suggers & Marsha Richardson.

In the run up to St. Andrews Day 1979 special invitations were sent out for an important event that would unite a Scottish Clan scattered throughout the continents. Those invitations bore a request for the presence of individuals to attend the Chapel Royal at Falkland Place, Fife, to be witness to an event that had not taken place for 300 years. On Saturday the 17th of March 1979 at 11am, the Rev. James Forsyth conducted a ceremony that would unite The Clan Forsyth once again, the inauguration of their Chief, Alastair Forsyth of that Ilk. It was an historic moment that would bring together hundreds of years of Scottish diaspora around the world and unite a people with a shared cultural heritage and ancestry.

The origin of Clan Forsyth is suggested to be dated to the Thirteenth Century, if not before, when it is recorded in the book, *Scottish Arms: being A Collection of Armorial Bearings A.D. 1370-1678*, that “in 1296 William Frisith, of the county of Peebles [Scotland] did homage to Edward I.” This is further supported by the *Ragman Rolls*, and although important, we can only theorize that this mention of ‘Frisith’ refers to one of the earliest Forsyth ancestors known.

The available historical documentation confirms that the Clan Forsyth had its roots established, at least, between the years 1306 and 1329, when Forsyth, believed to be a descendant entry in the *Register of the Great Seal of Scottish crowned King* at the time being contemporary reference for Forsyth of the *Great Seal of Scotland* and thought made Sergeant of Stirling and granted the tenement of Salakhill, within the also recorded in the Lord Haddington Earl of Haddington, who was known documents, his life spanning the years of life was never documented, but records David Forsyth, William Forsyth, and Robert Forsyth.



Osbert de Forsyth, or Osbert son of of William Frisith, is described in an *Scotland* as a “servant of the King.” The the famous, Robert the Bruce. Another appears at the time, also in the *Register* to be referring to Osbert, as him being one hundred measurements of land in county of Stirling. This Land Grant is Collections, by Thomas Hamilton, 1st to have begun making copies of earlier 1563-1637. To our knowledge, Osbert’s show that he had at least three children,

David Forsyth would become the forefather of the Forsyth of Dykes ancestral line that would be the foundation of the Clan Forsyth success. David had two sons, John and William, and it was John who was granted further lands of Gilcamstoun (Gilcomston), now in the City of Aberdeen. His only son, also called David, would become increasingly successful at court, and was knighted in 1488, receiving land and arms, “A shield of arms: on a fess betw. three crosses crosslet fitchées, as many lozenges,” later described by Stobart as, “FORSYTH OF THAT ILK. Argent, a chevronel engrailed gules between three griffins segreant azure.” David of Dykes was the first Chief of Clan Forsyth, he married and held the Castle of Halhill (Lanarkshire) until his death in 1513, when he fell at the Battle of Flodden “under’ the King’s standard.” He was not the only Forsyth to die fighting for King James IV of Scotland that day, Alexander Forsyth of Nydie, his kin, also fell at the battle leaving the family bereft of two men. David of Dykes son, also David (III), would inherit the property and title of Dykes, along with relief from the sheriff to cover rents for six years

and land transfer costs, both owed to the crown, as compensation for his father's premature death.

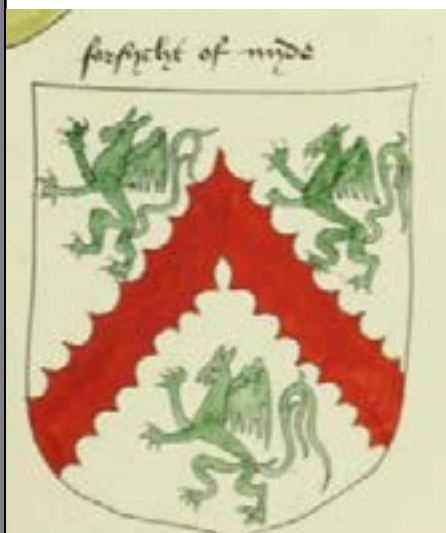
The Forsyth of Dykes castle of Halhill continued to be the residence of the Forsyth seat until 1585 when political change and the Reformation forced the family to concede ownership. The Forsyth's had previously sold or exchanged other lands they held, and they acquired the Lands at Inchnock and Geyne, within the Barony of Monkland, presumably because they felt that change was coming, and they needed to protect themselves. They built a new castle at Inchnock that would become their formal residence. Their descendants would continue to live successfully until approximately 1700, when the Forsyth line of Dykes would fail from lack of descendants. We know from records that James Forsyth left his property to his nephew, James Bruce of Gavell, who adopted the name "Forsyth," and it is believed that any remaining inherited titles would have passed to the Forsyth of Nydie branch of the family.



Arms of Forsyth of Dykes

William Forsyth, son of Osbert de Forsyth, would become the forefather of the Forsyth of Nydie line of the family. He was the younger brother of David Forsyth, the forefather of the Dykes line, and the middle brother, the youngest of the three sons being Robert Forsyth. William was made a Bailie of Edinburgh at some time before 1365, the position being like an Alderman, so he was actively involved within the management of the local and regional community. He is recorded as having at least two sons, William and John Forsyth, that would both go on to achieve eminent roles.

Willam Forsyth (II), the elder son, would be granted lands and arms, thought to be around the year 1434, that would make him the Larid of Nydie. The arms were recorded in Stobart's *Scottish Arms: being A Collection of Armorial Bearings A.D. 1370-1678* as "gules, a chevron engrailed argent between three griffins segreant or, and also the coat in L." The younger son, John Forsyth, would take Holy Orders and became secretary to the Bishop of St. Andrews, Henry Wardlaw, who was the founder of the University of St. Andrews, Edinburgh in 1413, and who had also been a tutor to the young King James I of Scotland. The subsequent lines of Nydie would go forward successfully, marrying well and achieving success in their endeavors.



Arms of Forsyth of Nydie

The third and last known son of Osbert de Forsyth, was Robert Forsyth (II), the youngest brother. He would also have a prestigious role in society, he was granted lands near to the property held by his grandfather, also Robert Forsyth (I), and was known to have been a Constable of Stirling Castle. His child and grandchild would carry on close links to Stirling Castle, following in their forebear's footsteps, and fulfilled similar roles.

It is clear from early in the records that the Forsyth family were destined to have a successful future, forging close ties with the Royal House, acquiring titles, land, and arms, and to form what we now know as Clan Forsyth from 1488. As a Clan, they continued in their success, with members of the family continuing to enjoy accomplishments in their personal and public lives, remaining prominent in the lives of local and regional society. But with all great things over the distance of time, political change would take its toll on the Clan Forsyth and change its fortunes forever.

With the unification of England and Scotland under one monarch in 1603, political maneuvering and favor became complicated, with Scotland always having a difficult and reluctant relationship with England. The later British King, William III, known as William II in Scotland, proclaimed that all Clan Chiefs were to swear an allegiance to him before 1 January 1692. Although many Clan Chiefs swore allegiance to protect their interests, it is said that the Chief of Clan Forsyth refused, thus the clan would no longer be legally considered a clan. Although their legal status was lost, no severe harm seemed to have befallen them with their decision, perhaps because of the family's already long history of maneuvering the politics of the court successfully. Other clans did not fare so well, the Chief of MacDonald of Glencoe accidentally arrived to take the oath too late which angered the King. The Campbells, "hereditary enemies" of the MacDonalds and working on behalf of the King, massacred 37 MacDonalds, including their Chief.

The 'Act of Union' in 1707, that united the government of both England and Scotland, further changed the way Scotland was governed, and the next sixty years would change the way of life in Scotland forever, rendering it almost unrecognizable. The Jacobite rebellions, attempting to reunite a Stuart heir to the British throne, would force the English to finally crush the Scottish clans and all those who opposed them across the border. At least two Forsyth's are evidenced to have fought in the battle of Culloden, willing to sacrifice their lives for the Scottish cause. These were George Forsyth, a servant from Stonywood, Newhills who "Carried Arms at Falkirk and Culloden" and James Forsyth, a Town Officer from Forres, who "Carried Arms and Recruited men for the Rebels." With the changing political and historical landscape, many Forsyth's would disperse throughout the British Isles and beyond into the reaches of the wider world. Wealth would be lost, the land and castles left to go into disrepair, and the history all but forgotten.

Almost beyond the realm of memory and on the brink of extinction, James Forsyth of Glengorm set forth the idea in 1913 to unite the Clan Forsyth and begin the careful search for a new clan Chief, saving the clan from inevitable obscurity. He contacted those Forsyth's living within the bounds of Glasgow and voiced his intentions to find a Chief admissible to the Lord Lyon, King of Arms. The "Forsyth Family Association" was born to represent its members with the express purpose of finding the heir apparent to the Chiefdom of Clan Forsyth. Their objective to establish who the Forsyth's were and establish a history. The association did not go forward without issue, WW1 halted its resolution until 1920, and later failing membership forced it to take a break in 1966. Research was slow and painstaking with no internet or immediate access to digital copies of texts available, but it was finally found who the closest heir to the Forsyth legacy was. In 1972 an International Gathering of Clans was held in Edinburgh, with an eventual invitation to Alistair Forsyth being extended to represent the Clan.

With much research undertaken, it was established that Alastair Forsyth, as the closest living relative, was heir to the Chiefdom of Clan Forsyth. As with all Clan recognition submitted to the Lord Lyon, proven genealogical links are needed, together with the creation of a Derbhfine. A Derbhfine being a meeting to include nine Scottish armigers, or persons who have been granted a Coat of Arms in Scotland, together with the holding of significant Land ownership. Together the meeting council elects a "Commander of the Clan," and after a set time, the Commander is considered the "Chief" of the Clan, accepted by the Lord Lyon. With all the requirements met to satisfaction, Alastair Forsyth was inaugurated to the Chief of Clan Forsyth, Chief Alastair Forsyth of the Ilk, at the Palace of Falkland Place, Fife on Saturday 17th March 1979. The historic moment would ensure that our history, heritage, and culture could once more be protected and established for future generations. It is our family connections that make us stronger and unite us in a common bond, we must all ensure that our legacy is never forgotten and can never be on the brink of extinction again.

Instaurator Ruinae!



*THE COAT OF ARMS OF THE CHIEF OF CLAN
FORSYTH*

THE CURRENT CHIEF IS ALISTAIR CHARLES WILLIAM FORSYTH



Clan Logan's Chief Restoration Project

Kevin Logan, President, Clan Logan Society International

By late 2023 it had become apparent that there was not much headway left to be made in the way Clan Logan Society International had been searching for the inheritor of this coat of arms, first registered with the Court of the Lord Lyon King of Arms in 1672.

The man who had registered the arms was called George Logan of that Ilk, the man we've come to refer to as 'the Armiger' in recognition of his being the first Logan to officially register arms with the Lord Lyon. In reality, George Logan of that Ilk's title was more officially given as Chief of Name and Arms of Logan. For the next 130 years, these arms were matriculated to the Armiger's descendants in an unbroken line. Sadly, this line came to an abrupt and unfortunate end with the death of Hugh, "the Witty Laird o' Logan." Hugh, being the third son of a third son, felt there was little chance the registered arms and the title of Chief of Name and Arms of Logan would pass to him and so, did little to prepare himself or his lifestyle to inherit them. Surprisingly though, that is just what happened. Although Hugh did eventually inherit the arms and title, he died without a legitimate heir in 1802, leaving the title vacant to this day.



The last last registered arms of George Logan of that Ilk, 1672 A.D.

From the beginnings of the Chief Restoration Project, there have been three men who provided the groundbreaking research:

Peter Logan, Society Genealogist and Researcher (now deceased),

John Logan Marjoribanks, Society Heritage Officer (retired), next page

James C. Logan, Society President Emeritus, next page

The project can really be traced to a beginning with Peter's 2002 correspondence with the Lord Lyon, Robin Blair LVO WS. Peter inquired as to any documents showing a living Clan Chief of Logan – to which he received the reply that there wasn't any evidence of one on file at the Court of the Lord Lyon, but that there had been a Logan of that Ilk in 1672.

Across the next two decades, Peter and John spent untold hours that became days, months, and eventually years searching the archives of Scotland. James provided detailed research reviews and Society funding to assist in the search. Many professional genealogists were employed to help confirm research findings and sometimes to help break through brick walls in the search.

The project came almost to a standstill in March of 2020 as the Scottish government closed all of the archives to the public. They remained closed for the next two years. Undaunted, John took stock of his research and gave an excellent presentation on the Chief Restoration Project to a global audience. The event was hosted by the Society in its first-ever global virtual meeting. The presentation was instrumental in keeping the project alive during the uncertain times of 2020 and 2021.

The Chief Restoration Project – A Timeline



Peter Logan



**John Logan
Marjoribanks**

In January of 2022, Kevin Logan became the third President of the Society. Concerned about the lost research time since 2020, Kevin worked closely with John to bring to the project the highly regarded genealogist, Dr. Bruce Durie. Dr. Durie was first tasked to review all materials John had determined to be key to the research in 2020. Dr. Durie then expanded his research to new leads he had found. He submitted his final report on the matter to the Society in July of 2023. The report contained some possible leads, but none that likely held much promise of leading to a living heir.

Accepting that the prior twenty years' worth of dedicated research had not produced, and likely would never produce a living heir to the arms of George Logan of that Ilk, Kevin decided it



James C Logan

was time to pursue a different path. He consulted with John and James about alternatives. They agreed that it was time to ask the Lord Lyon King of Arms for permission to hold a supervised family convention, historically referred to as a *derbhfine*. The goal of the family convention would be to appoint a commander of Clan Logan – someone whose goal would be to elevate the of the family and clan of Logan, hopefully shaking loose the search for the legitimate heir.

On October 4, 2023, Kevin and other officers of the Society sent a letter petitioning the Lord Lyon King of Arms, Dr. Joseph CVO CBE KstJ KC LLD to take up the matter of a convention of the family and clan of Logan for the appointment of a commander for Clan Logan. The letter summarized the twenty years of pertinent findings, snapshots of records, and finally, a request to hold the convention.



Kevin Logan



Bruce Durie

Dr. Durie's research provided a new lead in the public view of the clan of Logan. The Society sent a letter to J. Morrow DL FRSE, supervised the clan of Logan, and provided a summary of research, of historical

On February 2, 2024, the Lord Lyon announced to the public that he had appointed Falkland Pursuivant Extraordinary, Colin Russell, as Supervising Officer to the Family Convention of Logan.

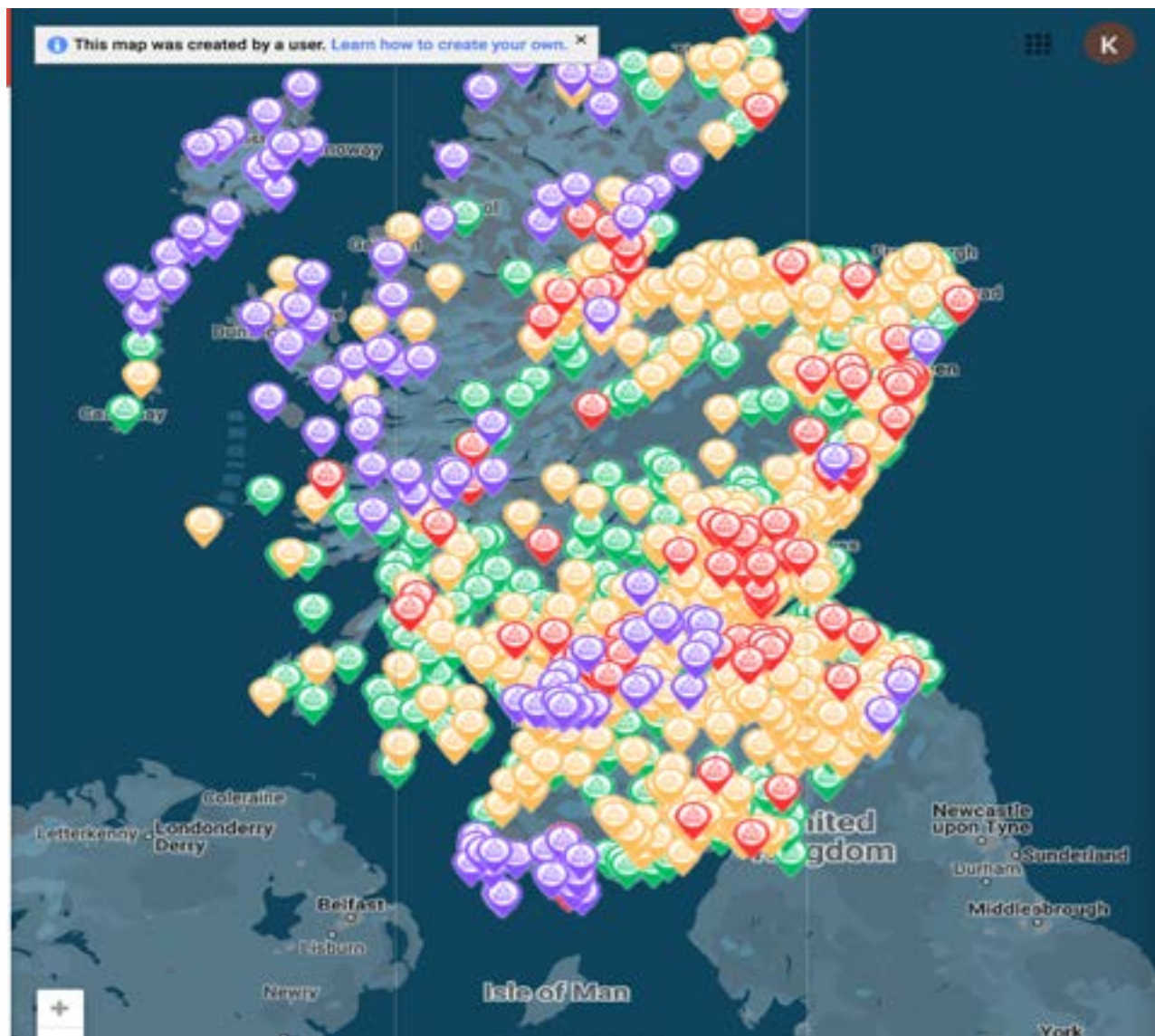
Since February of 2024, Linda Street-Ely, Vice President of the Society, and Tricia Logan Locke, Secretary & Treasurer of the Society, have formed the nucleus of the Convention Planning Committee. They have worked tirelessly in researching locations to hold the convention, organizing sponsors and donors, and everything else that will make the convention a memorable and truly historic occasion for the family and clan of Logan.

If you are interested in learning more about all of the excitement surrounding this historic project, please feel free to contact Kevin by email at president@clanlogansociety.org. And if you want to learn more about the current nominees to be Commander of Clan Logan and the process involved there, please reach out to the Society's Heritage Officer, Caleb E. Logan, at heritage@clanlogansociety.org.

ANCESTORS AT RISK

*By Keith MacGregor **

The Church of Scotland has turned to selling off many of its churches which it claims it can no longer afford to maintain. With church attendance at a bare minimum, Scotland is now a secular country where budgets outweigh beliefs. An estimated 1,500 Scottish churches are up for sale, mostly in country parishes from the Borders up through the Highlands and the Western Isles.



This short article contains a map of those churches. Some clans and specific families have filed complaints or court actions with the Church of Scotland. The Church of Scotland will not release any official figures. However, there is a blog and an interactive map which will be posted shortly on the COSCA website, which can be used for detailed reference. Color coding for the static map above identifies the category of a given church by color.

Thanks to the Scotland Church Trust, the breakdown of the status of most churches suggests that 661 churches have been sold, are on the market or are considered likely to be sold. A slightly larger number are currently considered safe for now. These data suggest about 1,531 churches are at risk or worse.

Scotland Churches by Status**

Sold, For sale (red)	Likely For Sale (yellow)	Safe For Now (green)	No Info (purple)
661	547	734	134

Persons looking for information about the fate of parish churches in their respective clan lands can focus on their ancestral parish. Now is the time for Scots worldwide to choose which future they want for the graves of their ancestors.

Is there a solution? As always, it likely involves *MONEY*. The need for donations must go out to Diaspora Scots worldwide, whose potential support is greater than that of any organization in Scotland.

Building maintenance is at the heart of the matter, if anything is to be saved. Better to sell to a clan society or interest group than to a developer. Key factors: What does a good maintenance man/crew cost on a yearly basis? Who should be asked to support that maintenance? Which parties can or should contribute to that upkeep over time?

If the Church of Scotland is to relinquish some/all control, a trust or suchlike will be necessary for each affected property. Clan and family societies can and should be key players in making such a solution happen in their old clan lands.

The *Spectator* article is the latest to cover this issue in Scotland, which has already been covered by *the Scotsman*, *the Financial Times*, *Times*, *National*, *Guardian*, *Mail*, *STV News*, and just about every local newspaper this past year. Each one takes its slightly different perspective on the issue, but Scots are still no closer to a national resolution.

* * * * *

*Keith MacGregor is the North American Representative on the Board of the Clan Gregor Society. Founded in 1822 in Edinburgh, the Clan Gregor Society is the oldest continuously operating Scottish clan society in the world.

** Thanks to the Scotland Church Trust for information about the church closures. To learn more about this topic, [follow this link](#).

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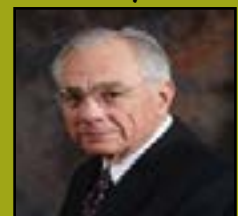
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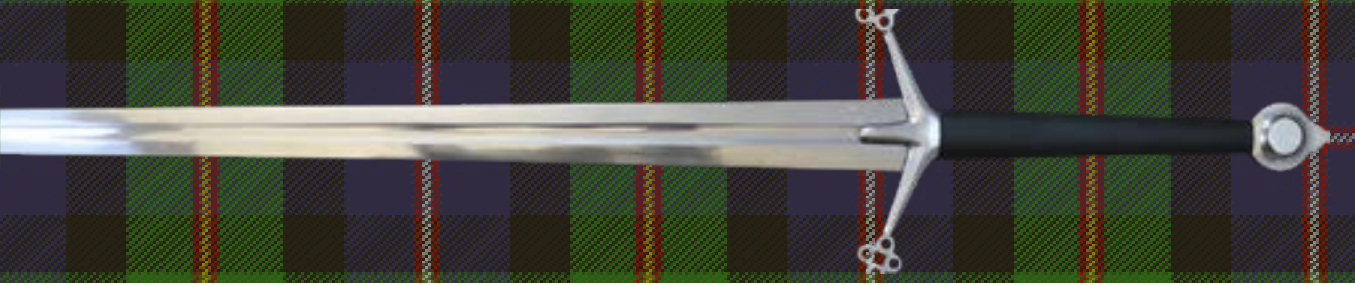
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“Service, Education & Advocacy in support of the Scottish American Ancestral Diaspora”

Membership Application form

(Membership Year January 1 - December 31)

Date: _____

Applying for Organizational Membership: \$50 per year

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 to: Scott Swan at COSCA, 1061 Legend Dr, Greensboro, GA, 30642

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