



The Saltyre

July 2020

Message From The President

The last few months have been less than ideal to say the least. For the last few months the big topics have been Corona Virus, hoarding, protesting, looting, rioting, etc.. State ordered shutdowns have had a huge impact on every aspect of our lives.

Shutdowns and COVID-19 have also impacted the operations and events of the St Andrews Society. It appears that COVID may continue to affect the Society's activities through the end of the year. Upcoming events for the Society are the BBQ/AGM, Investiture, Christmas party, and Burns supper. Currently all events scheduled after the BBQ are tentative.



The BBQ is still on for August 15 at Doug and Sandi Walters home. A brief AGM will be included as part of the activities. The event is outdoors and you may sign up on the Society's web page. As the BBQ is an outdoor event I am not going to order anyone to wear a mask or face covering, but will suggest that it is a prudent matter of choice and anyone choosing to wear a mask should feel comfortable about doing so.

Doug Walters is the point man for the BBQ event. Please contact him if you have questions about the event, food, swimming, etc., and please log in to the website to sign up. The Society is providing a BBQ roasted leg of lamb. This is a pot luck and Doug has set up the following food list by last name:

A – Go: Hors d'oeuvres
Gr – Mc: Salad
Me – Ri: Side/Vegetable
Ro – Z: Dessert

If you are not comfortable dining from a pot luck table please feel comfortable about bringing a picnic lunch for yourself and your guests.

All the best,

Bruce Locken



Clans

The House of Forbes origins remain obscured by the mists of time. One belief is that the name “Forbes” is derived from the territory occupied by their ancestors. As noted in *Highland Clans of Scotland: Their History and Traditions* (George Eyre-Todd, 1923), “there are traditions which trace back the genealogy of the Forbes clan to the early Celtic kings of Scotland, and to the royalty of Ireland.” One of those traditions is related in the *Annals of Scotland* (Sir David Dalrymple, 1776.) It states that “one Salvathius Forbes married Moravilla, daughter of Gregory the Great, King of Scotland, about 870 AD, and that all the Forbes’s in Scotland are descended from him.”

The most likely source of the name “Forbes” is from the Irish Gaelic name Forbhasach, “the man of courage” or, more literally “man with a bold forehead.” Many Irish warriors and bishops were so named in the 7th and 8th centuries. In that age, patronymics did not exist and so the name cannot be said to have been that of a succession from father to son.



The earliest surnames found in Scotland did not occur until the reign of David I, King of Scots (1124–1153). These were typically Anglo-Norman names which had become hereditary in England before Scotland. *The Peerage of Scotland* (Sir Robert Douglas, 1764) observes that the surname of Forbes was most likely from the lands in Aberdeenshire that have been held by the family since the time of King William the Lion (1142 – 1214) The *Peerage* notes that the earliest charter was granted by Alexander, Earl of Buchan, to Fergus, son of John de Forbes, in 1236. Other research has indicated that this charter refers, not to John de Forbes, but to John de Fothos or Fiddes. This charter came to Alexander, first Lord Forbes, when he bought the estate of Fiddes, in Foveran, in 1436.

The Highlanders of Scotland, Their Origin, History, and Antiquities (William Forbes Skene, 1837) states that Alexander III (1241–1286) made a grant of the lands and tenements of Forbes to Duncan de Forbes in the year 1271 (1272 Gregorian calendar.) John Forbes, the 8th Lord Forbes, produced the 1271 charter for Parliament in 1593 to prove that he was the true and lawful holder of his lands in Edinbanchrie (Edinbanchory) and Craiglogy.



The most reasonable conclusions about the origins of the House of Forbes was that the name was derived from the Irish Gaelic “Forbhasach” for “man of courage,” and the families that frequently named their sons Forbhasach lived in Aberdeenshire for many centuries, both the land and the families were called Forbes, and that the first documented individual to use “Forbes” or “Forbeys” as a surname was Duncan de Forbes who received a land grant from Alexander III in 1271.

Courtesy of <https://www.clan-forbes.org>



Castle Forbes, Seat Of The Clan Chief

Castle Forbes is a 19th-century country house in the Scottish baronial style near Alford in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. The 6,000 acres Castle Forbes Estate is the seat of the Chief of the Forbes Clan. The Earl of Mar granted the lands to Sir Alexander Forbes (later the 1st Lord Forbes) in 1411 for his part in the defeat of Donald of the Isles at the Battle of Harlaw.

The present castle overlooking the River Don was built in 1815 by James Ochoonocar Forbes, 17th Lord Forbes (1765 – 1843.) In 1807, the original architect wanted to build on a new site due



to drainage and landscaping factors. Lord Forbes disagreed and hired architect Archibald Simpson to incorporate the old house into the new. Simpson encountered structural problems and the original section of the house (probably from c. 1600) began to crack. Simpson was dismissed work was completed by the City Architect of Aberdeen, John Smith.

Atholl Laurence Cunyngham, 21st Lord Forbes (1882 – 1953), modernized the castle by installing bathrooms, wash-hand basins, central heating, and electricity from a turbine at the old sawmill on the River Don. This remained till main electricity was connected after 1945. In World War II between 1939 and 1945, Lord Forbes loaned Castle Forbes to the Department of Health as an Auxiliary Hospital for convalescent servicemen.

Today, Castle Forbes estate is managed by Clan Chief Malcolm Forbes, 23rd Lord Forbes and his wife Jinny, Lady Forbes. In 1996, a former dairy building was converted into a small perfumery. A Neolithic stone circle dating to 3000 BC is located on nearby Cothiemuir Hill and a part of the property is now a fully sustainable natural burial ground.

Courtesy of <https://www.clan-forbes.org>



Scottish Highland Heavy Athletics and Highland Games

Scotland is historically well known for its superior battle warriors who were constantly involved in an existence filled with wars and battles. The Scottish Warrior had to be prepared to battle from horseback, on the ground, and from behind castle walls.

It is thought that Malcolm II (1057-1093), also called Malcolm Ceann mor (Canmore) defended the area around Braemar against incursions from Moravia (Moray) and he may have instituted Highland Games as a contest to select the strongest and fittest Clansmen for his armies. The tests simulated throwing stones from battlements, throwing ladders up castle walls, and swinging the long and heavy Claymore Scottish sword. Large stones were said to be left by clan chieftains outside a castle's walls requiring any who might want to pass to lift and throw it. Those stones can be found in Scotland today.

Unlike most individual sports today, Olympic caliber Scottish Highland Heavy Events athletes must participate in all eight events in order to compete. This requires Herculean strength and nearly year-round training in all the events as well as strength, speed, and agility work. Competitions usually begin as the festivals open for spectators at around nine in the morning and often end well after three o'clock in the afternoon.

The eight events are: Open stone throw, Braemar stone throw, Light Hammer, Heavy Hammer, Light Weight for distance, Heavy weight for distance, the Weight-Over-bar, and the Caber Toss. (for an excellent explanation of each event including pictures, visit the Caledonian Club of San Francisco's website at:www.caledonian.org/athleticsinfo.html)



Two of the most difficult events are held at the end of the. The weight-over-bar (WOB) and Caber Toss come at the time of day when most of the athletes have used up much of their muscle strength and endurance. The WOB requires balance and total body strength to throw a 42-pound weight 14 feet almost straight up in the air. The Caber Toss requires exact timing and agility to flip the punishingly heavy 18 foot-long, one hundred pound wooden pole a full 360-degree turn with accuracy. In most competitions, only about ten percent of the competitors can turn the caber completely over.

Some historians suggest that about the time of the Roman invasions in Scotland around the second and third centuries Scottish warriors displayed their bravery and strength by exhibiting feats of skill and power in front of opposing armies. Regardless of the origins of the games, they are now more popular than ever. With over 40 million people of Scottish descent across the world, and over 350 Scottish gatherings each year, it is no wonder.

Courtesy of Electric Scotland



The Custom of Fosterage

By Ed Moore

Another custom, which was prevalent throughout the Highlands, was that of fosterage of sons, called *comhdhaltas* in Gaelic. A chief's son, for example, would live with foster-parents in the same glen and would be raised as a child of the foster-parents. The children of ordinary clansman might be fostered with the chief. It didn't only involve chiefs, of course; it involved everybody. One gave one's children to one's friends to foster. The purpose of this custom was simple, and it was remarkably efficacious. It gave a sense of unity, of belonging to one great family, and it bound the clan together just as much as, perhaps more than, their belief in their common descent from the ancestor who had founded the clan. Each Highland boy had not only his own parents and his own brothers and sisters but also foster-parents and foster-brothers.

Fosterage away from the clan was more rare, but chiefs often used it as a way of forging friendships and alliances with neighbors. It became a diplomatic thing, and as such it was invaluable. It was generally a prized privilege to have the fosterage of the son of a great chief, or even of a chieftain (or lesser chief), if of good lineage; and the advantages that accrued to fosterers and fostered alike were considered to be substantial.

Fosterage, at any rate, served the purpose of binding the different classes of the community together in a way that was mutually serviceable, both in peace and war. When the heir to the chiefship was called upon to display his prowess in the *creach*, or open foray, the young men who accompanied him were frequently the village lads whose athletic prowess he had tested in many a friendly contest at running, and leaping, and swimming, and fencing, and wrestling.

The bond of fosterage was extremely strong. Perhaps two of the most interesting clan stories illustrate yet again this tremendous bond, which existed in the Highlands between foster-brothers. One of the best known was the traditional tale concerning that of Sir Hector MacLean, chief of the Clan MacLean, at the Battle of Inverkeithing in July 1651, when the Scots were attempting to overthrow Oliver Cromwell and restore King Charles II. The clan MacLean was present in great strength under Sir Hector, who had seven foster-brothers, all of whom fought shoulder to shoulder with him. During the battle he became hard pressed by enemies, and his foster-brothers shielded him with their bodies. As each foster-brother died defending their chief, he called out 'Another For Hector', and one of his



brothers stepped in to take his place, called 'Death for Hector.' All seven of the foster-brothers were killed before Sir Hector himself was killed in this conflict.

The other story occurred at the Battle of Killiecrankie on 27 July 1689, when the Highlanders under John Graham of Claverhouse, Viscount Dundee, routed General Hugh MacKay of Scourie, the commander of William III's army in Scotland. MacKay's men were trapped in the Pass of Killiecrankie and utterly defeated.

The legendary Sir Ewen Cameron of Lochiel was present with his clan that day. He was age sixty at the time, and thanks to his foster brother he had another thirty years to live.

His foster brother followed him everywhere in battle, as the custom was, remaining always by his side. Suddenly Lochiel missed him, and turning he saw him lying on his back, his chest pierced by an arrow. Just before he died, the faithful man told Lochiel that somebody had fired on the chief from behind. There was no time to do anything except to jump behind the chief and shield him with his own body, which he did.

General Stewart of Garth, relating the incident, made the dry comment, "This is a species of duty not often practiced, perhaps, by an aide-de-camp of the present day'.

References

- Grant, I.F. and Cheape, Hugh. (1997). Periods in Highland History. Barnes & Noble Books: New York. Pgs. 148-149.
- MacKinnon, Charles. (1984). Scottish Highlanders Barnes & Noble Books: New York. Pgs. 75,131



Flowers of the Forest

Herman Chambers	1930-2020	Felix D. Othon	1929-2007
Clyde Le Roy Scott	1938-2019	William Arnold Butler	1943-2006
Malcolm MacClenaghan.	1924-2019	George Santrizos	1914-2005
Alex Doig	1938-2019	Daniel Stephens	1911-2003
Gordon Scott	1946-2019	David F. McGeary	1940-2002
Alasdair Harding.	2018	Leroy Coulter Pierson	1913-1999
Walter (Skip) W. Hastings	1945-2018	Rev. J.P. Edwards III	1925-1997
Calvert Lawton Crawford	1933-2018	Watson Burns	1996
William Leroy Wilson	1929-2017	James McCracken	1920-1994
Gary D. Stevenson	1949-2017	Alexander W. McTavish	1906-1992
David Mercer	1935-2016	Rev. Howard Perry	1921-1989
Charles Preston Thomson	1940-2015	Wallace Gibson Holt	1919-1989
Donald Calavan-MacRae	1932-2013	James C. C. Wallace.	1926-1989
Edison Alva McFarland II –	1925-2012	Angus Murray	1984
Moton Bryant Holt	1929-2012	Robert Jeffreys	
James C "Jim" Richey	1931-2009	Alec Cowan	
George W. Burns	1925-2008	Tom Ross	
George Eric Martin	1921-2008	Bob MacDonald	
BG Harry McIvor Nicolson	1920-2008	Larry Cameron	
		Shakey Johnson	
		Frank M. Clark	
		Richard Russo	

The Society plants trees in Scotland on behalf of departed brothers of the Society. This is done as a remembrance and contributes to the replanting of the Great Caledonian Forest. Any time you wish you may donate via this link:

<https://treesforlife.org.uk/plant-trees/grove/5067/>



Charitable giving may help you minimize taxes while supporting the causes that are meaningful to you. Please consider making a donation to the Society when estate planning.



Society Board	Calendar	Society Finances
<p>President Bruce Locken</p> <p>Vice President</p> <p>Treasurer Thomas Melton</p> <p>Secretary Chuck Jamison</p> <p>Directors of the Board Chuck Meng Doug Walters Ed Moore James Morgan</p>	<p>BBQ. August 15 Doug Walters' house, \$15/person Potluck and BBQ</p> <p>*****</p> <p>ALL EVENTS AFTER THE BBQ ARE TENTATIVE DUE TO COVID-19</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Investiture Nov. 30, 2020 Arden Hilton, West</p> <p>Christmas Party Maybe Dec. 12</p> <p>Burns Supper 2021 Jan. 30</p> <p>Spring Tea March 2021</p> <p>Dining In/AGM, June TBA North Ridge Country Club</p> <p>Halfway to Burns Day July TBA</p> <p>Board meetings temporarily being handled online.</p> <p>8890 Roediger Lane, Fair Oaks, 7pm</p>	<p>Through June, 2020</p> <p>Checking - \$5,519.08</p> <p>Savings - \$39,761.88</p> <p>Scholarship - \$2,521.29</p> <p>Total - \$47,802.25</p>

<https://saintandrewssocietyofsacramento.wildapricot.org>

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