

# THE CLAY PIPER

First Coast Highlanders Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 4

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FEBRUARY 2018

## WELCOME!

*Happy 2018 New Year to all of our supporters of First Coast Highlanders bagpipe and drum band. I trust you had a wonderful holiday season?*

*First thing I want to bring to your attention is our new tartan, at the top of this page. Our new kilt tartan design "Scottish National." It's sharp looking and if all goes well the performing band members will be wearing the new kilt at the Northeast Florida Scottish Games, February 24th. Thanks to all who have contributed toward the large expense. If you have an extra dollar or two and would like to contribute check out our web site [www.firstcoasthighlanders.com](http://www.firstcoasthighlanders.com). You can safely donate through PayPal or by using your credit card, and it is tax deductible.*

*FCH had their annual General Meeting and the following Officers were duly elected for the Executive Board for the 2018.*

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President:	Evan Brown
Vice-President:	Scotland Boland
Secretary:	Jane Argo Romeo
Treasurer:	Will Wheeler
Band Manager:	Art Tenney
Officer At Large:	Robert Arthurs
Quarter Master:	Steve Romeo

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*Congratulations to all and may we have a marvelous year!*

## PAST EVENTS

FCH has had a couple events since the last printing of *The Clay Piper*.

October 19th at **Thrasher Horn Conference Center**, FCH provided a little entertainment for the **Mercy Support Services of Clay County** recognition. More than 1,700 Clay County men, women and children have called to provide help in a crisis. Through those calls, Mercy Support Services has impacted more than 4,200 people in Clay County and guided 9 families through their self-sufficiency program.

For the **Veterans Day Memorial**, on November 5th **Saint Giles Presbyterian Church** conducted a wonderful Veterans recognition service where we participated

On November 19th, FCH assisted during the **Veterans Memorial Service** at **Magnolia Cemetery in Orange Park**. This is an annual event with wonderful speakers and presentations of awards for Junior and High School students writing on the

subject of "What does Veterans Day mean to me?"

For the **Kirkin of the Tartan**, FCH traditionally participates with **First Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville** during the month of November. This year the Kirkin was held on November 19th, as always was a grand event with large crowds, and a brass ensemble. Can't forget the wonderful food and fellowship after the service.

Tradition has it that the Highlanders always assemble outside after the Kirkin to play a few toe-taping Scottish tunes to celebrate this grand day.



Art, Greg, Scotland and Hamish singing "Flower of Scotland."



## SCOTTISH GAMES '18

Now that winter is over, and spring is around the corner it's time to head out to many of the different Scottish Highland Games throughout the USA. Central Florida was the first to hold their games, January 13-14. Several FCH members participated in the mass band performance and enjoyed the food and festivities in Orlando. You can visit the Association of Scottish Games & Festivals website at [www.asgf.org](http://www.asgf.org) for a list of several games. At this printing not all dates were set, but here are a couple future fun filled days ahead.

- February 24, NE Florida Scottish Games, Green Cove Springs
- March 23-25, Saltwater Highland Games, Myrtle Beach, NC
- September 28, Celtic Classic Highland Games & Festival, Bethlehem, PA

## WHAT'S YOUR CLAN?

*This quarter Steve Romeo, FCH immediate past president, has provided information on his Scottish clan.*

According to the detailed book 'The Records of the Pringles, the surname Hoppringill, or Pringle, dates from the reign of Alexander III of Scotland (1249–86) and is one of the oldest names of the Scottish Border region.

The Pringles were closely allied to the cause of Scotland's freedom during the thirteenth century War of Independence, when successive armies of English invaders laid waste to the entire Borders area.

The Pringles were early supporters of the great warrior king Robert the Bruce, who won his famous victory over the military might of England's Edward II at the battle of Bannockburn in 1314.

Sir James Pringle, of the Pringles of Whitsome, is said to have been

a friend of Bruce and following the king's death, he was among the elite band of renowned Scottish knights who accompanied Sir James Douglas on a mission in 1330 to bury his heart in the Holy Land. In the 14th century the family was close allies to the Earls of Douglas, to whom they were squires. At about the end of that era they are first defined as "Hoppringle" of that Ilk, holding the lands of Earlside in Lauderdale. For 100 years, from about 1489, a succession of Pringle ladies, usually younger daughters, were Prioresses of the Convent at Coldstream.

Pringle is a place name derived from a locale in the Parish of Stow on the right side of Gala Water, about ten miles North of Galashiels. Hoppringle lies about one-half mile up from the bank of the river on the Southern

slopes of a ridge separating the valleys of the rivers Armet and Tod-



hole (now named Armet Water and Toddle Burn).

This ridge, with its level crest, abuts at its Western extremity on the Gala in remarkably rounded knob some 300 feet above the level of the river, which winds around its base in a semi-circle. It is this ring-like boss which no doubt gives the place its name of Hoppringhill, as it is occasionally written in older records. The original seat of the Chief of Clan Pringle was at Hoppringle and later at Torsonce on the Gala Water in Scotland.

*If you have Scottish heritage and can tell a story about what you know of your clan and sir-name, write it up and submit to The Clay Piper editor Bob Simpson, [piper4fch@comcast.net](mailto:piper4fch@comcast.net).*



*Pringle Crest:  
Three scallop shells*

*Pringle Motto:  
I will try all the time.*

## FLOWER OF SCOTLAND

In 1707, England and Scotland were merged into the United Kingdom of Great Britain, which much later became the United Kingdom of Britain and Ireland, and finally the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. "God Save The King"/"God Save The Queen" is the National Anthem of Scotland as much as that of England, a Scottish king having inherited the English throne as early as 1603. Nevertheless, there are two songs which are regarded as unofficial national anthems of the junior partner in their own right: "Scotland The Brave" and "Flower Of Scotland".

Though both are modern songs, the latter, which is also known as "O Flower Of Scotland" ("Flùr Na H-Alba" in Scottish Gaelic, and "Flouer O Scotland" in Scots) is probably nearest in temperament to an independent anthem, as it alludes to the only significant victory the Scots ever scored over England in their

centuries long and at times strained relationship.

Robert I (1274-1329) known as Robert The Bruce, defeated the English at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. He declared himself King of Scotland in 1306, but the King of England had other ideas, and Robert found himself outlawed. He is said to have been inspired to eventual victory by watching a spider trying repeatedly to fasten its thread on a beam in his hut on the island of Ràchrin where he was living in exile.

"Flower of Scotland" does not allude to this inspirational story but to the victory over Edward II. The lyrics were written by Roy Williamson (1936-90) and the song was performed initially by The Corries.



*continued on next page...*



## FLOWER OF SCOTLAND ...continued from previous page

The music is somewhat older, and was composed by Peter Dodds McCormick (c1834-1916) who emigrated to Australia as a young man, and composed the National Anthem of Australia, "Advance Australia Fair". (See an image of Robert The Bruce.)

"Flower of Scotland" is often sung at major sporting events and similar. A full arrangement for orchestra (by Chris Allen) was published by Good music of Tewkesbury some nine years after the death of Roy Williamson. The title has also been used for a history book: The Flower of Scotland: A History Of Scottish Monarchy by James J. Sharp, and for the biography of Roy Williamson, which was published by his daughter Karen in 1993 Robert The Bruce (1274-1329), the inspiration for the unofficial national anthem "Flower Of Scotland".

So, when you attend your next Kirkin or your next Highland Games or any other event that the tune "Flower of Scotland" is played, sing along. FCH will usually play it

through twice and then we sing the first two verses. We'll be listening!

- 1) *O flower of Scotland  
When will we see  
your like again  
That fought and died for  
Your wee bit hill and glen  
And stood against him  
Proud Edward's army  
And sent him homeward  
Tae think again*
- 2) *The hills are bare now  
And autumn leaves lie thick and still  
O'er land that is lost now  
Which those so dearly held  
And stood against him  
Proud Edward's army  
And sent him homeward  
Tae think again*
- 3) *Those days are passed now  
And in the past they must remain  
But we can still rise now  
And be the nation again  
That stood against him  
Proud Edward's army  
And sent him homeward  
Tae think again*

## RON PARKER

On January 12, First Coast Highlanders were honored to once again participate in the 43rd annual Ron Parker Memorial service. The ceremony was located at the Ron Parker Memorial Recreational Park in St. Augustine Beach. This is our third year working with the St. Augustine Beach Police Department in honoring Deputy Parker, killed in the line of duty January 12, 1975. First Coast Highlanders presented Mrs. Brenda Parker, his widow, with the FCH Challenge Coin, as a token of appreciation for the privilege of participating in this annual event.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Kirkin of the Tartan

January 28 ~ 9:30 & 11:00  
St. Simons Presbyterian Church,  
St. Simons Island, GA

### Kirkin of the Tartan

February 18 ~ 10:00  
St. Giles Presbyterian Church  
Orange Park, FL

### NE FL Scottish Games

February 24 ~ 9:00-5:00  
Clay County Fair Grounds  
Green Cove Springs, FL

### International Pancake Day

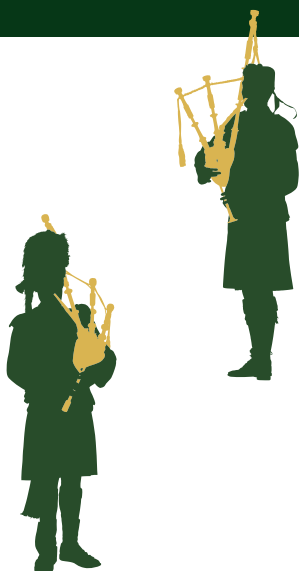
March 6 ~ 6:00pm  
IHOP Blanding Blvd  
Orange Park, FL

### Special Olympics

March 9 ~ 9:00 am  
Ridgeview High School  
Orange Park, FL

### St Patrick's Day Parade & Festival

March 10-11  
Francis Field  
St. Augustine, FL



### MISSION STATEMENT

The First Coast Highlanders is a Highland Bagpipe and Drum Band based in Clay County, Florida.

We are a performance and entertainment band, a teaching organization, and a cultural group. We are a community based band and promote Celtic culture through music. We are committed to playing the finest in traditional Scottish and Irish music for both private and public audiences.

Our goal is to encourage and support the Celtic culture in our community by providing instruction to anyone interested in learning the great highland bagpipe or highland drums. Lessons are provided free of charge to anyone that is willing to commit the time and self-discipline to learn.



## SPONSORS — THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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FOR \$25 YOU CAN BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR BOOSTER CLUB, and receive the newsletter by email.

***For more information about hiring a piper or the band, or becoming a sponsor, call Art Tenney at (904) 368-8177.***

Please complete the coupon below and mail with your check to the **First Coast Highlanders, 9703 NW 219th Street, Starke, FL 32091.**

We are registered under s.496 405, Florida Statutes, the Solicitation of Contributions Act, registration number CH36692, expiration date June 15, 2018, and we are a 501 (c)(3) non-profit charitable organization and all donations are tax deductible.

# FIRST COAST HIGHLANDERS

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