

THE CLAY PIPER

First Coast Highlanders Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 2

www.firstcoasthighlanders.com

www.facebook.com/firstcoasthighlanders

AUGUST 2018

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings! As I write this, several band members and I have just returned from the North American Academy of Piping & Drumming (NAAPD). (See Band Camp Time, below). This was my 6th visit, and, as always, I was able to correct some bad habits and learn some new techniques. Each time, I think that, after a year of solid practice, "I've got this!", and each

time, it takes only a few minutes for Jon Quigg (my instructor) to burst my bubble. There really is no end to learning. For those whose first time it was, I'm sure it was quite a revelation, as it was for me. It really takes a week at NAAPD to get properly started on the path to becoming a proper pipe band drummer or piper. In September we will start performing again (see below for details). I hope to see you at one or more of them!

— EJB



WHAT'S YOUR CLAN?

Scotland Boland, one of our young pipers, has always taken pride in his Scottish Heritage, as well as his name. He has provided The Clay Piper a snippet of his family history and his clan, McPherson. He tells us that family history is a funny thing, and if two strangers hadn't met each other two hundred years ago, Scotland may not have been Scotland.

My family comes from a place called Macmerry just outside Edinburgh, Scotland. My Grandfather, Hugh Mackay Smith, was born in 1929 to Margaret Bisset. Alexander Smith, his father, worked in the coal mines and died of black lung when my Grandfather was 15.

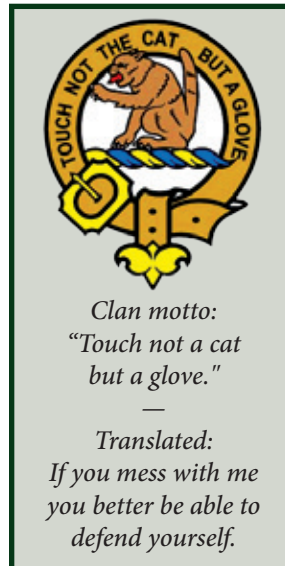
My grandfather's brother and his wife lived in the same house where they all grew up, until their passing, just a few years ago. I'd only met them twice in my life, once in 2004 when my Grandfather passed and again in 2014 when Clay County Sheriff's Office Pipes and Drums went to Scotland for the annual Pipe Fest. Each

time they treated me as if they'd known me their whole lives.

Hugh Mackay Smith (Grandfather) served in the British Army Highland Regiment during WWII. John Smith, (his Uncle), fought and died in France during WWI. Grandfather Hugh was the goalie for the British Army's football team. Scotland was not allowed to have its own army after the act of Union which formed the United Kingdom.

In 1955 Hugh immigrated to Canada with his best friend John MacLaine, then later to the USA. In 1964, my mother Bonnie Smith was born in Florida and in 1998 I was born."

Clan Macpherson or MacPherson or McPherson, comes with different spellings depending on the individual family. In Gaelic, Mac-a-Phearsain, translates to, "Son of the



Clan motto:
"Touch not a cat
but a glove."

Translated:
If you mess with me
you better be able to
defend yourself.

Parson." Mhuirich Cattanach, Fourth Chief of Clan Chattan, was made Parson of Kingussie, and his second son was the first to be called Macpherson.

Macpherson, one of the well-known warrior clans known for bravery and ferocity, has battled alongside the Stewarts and Murrays. Family history is important and needs preservation. You

could look up some keywords on the internet, but nothing is more personal than stories told around a lit hearth on a cold night, a fire dancing in the eyes and hearts of both young and old.

Clan Macpherson is part of the Chattan Confederation (Clan Chattan). In AD 843, the chief of Clan Chattan was Gille Chattan Mor and one of his sons, the first chief of Clan Macpherson, was forced to resettle

continued on next page...

WHAT'S YOUR CLAN? ...from previous page

in Lochaber by Kenneth MacAlpin, first king of Scots in 1370, when the Battle of Invernahavon took place between the Chattan Confederation and the Clan Cameron.



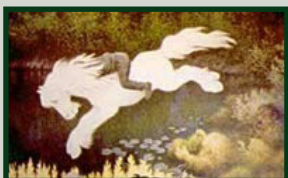
There was a dispute between the Macphersons and Clan Davidson over who should take the right wing in the battle which is reserved for the honored clan. Clan Mackintosh, whose chiefs were also chiefs of the Chattan Confederation,

avored the Davidsons and as a result the Macphersons left the field of battle. The Clan Cameron took advantage of this situation and gained the upper hand. Later the Macphersons were coerced back into the battle and the Camerons were defeated. The feud between the Clan Cameron and Chattan Confederation continued for many years.

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.

SCOTTISH MONSTERS — THE KELPIES

Almost every Scottish loch has a monster, or at least stories about a monster. Perhaps they are just convenient tales told by grannies to stop local children playing too near the water? The most common monster in these watery warnings is the



Kelpie, the Water Horse.

The kelpie was a creature that lived deep under the water. When it clambered onto the loch shore, it changed shape to become a beautiful horse, already saddled and bridled, luring local boys and girls, young men

and women, or even unwary travelers, to step into the stirrups and sit on the saddle

But the minute anyone sat on the saddle they were held fast, stuck to the horse's back. Then the beautiful horse would gallop straight down the bank

continued on next page...

HIGHLAND CATHEDRAL

Highland Cathedral has often been mistaken for a traditional Scottish song, however this melody was composed by German musicians (Berliners fond of bagpipes) Ulrich Rover and Michael Korb in 1982 for a Highland game held in Germany.

This tune has become so popular it has been proposed as the Scottish national anthem to replace the unofficial anthems



Saint Columba Church of Scotland, Glasgow

Scotland the Brave and/or Flower of Scotland.

The imagined story behind the words goes that under the reign of King James I of Scotland and England, all clan chiefs were asked to meet in a secret place, the Highland Cathedral Saint Columba Church of Scotland, Glasgow, to pledge an ending to their constant feuding, and live in peace.

They did as intended, when Highland Cathedral was played, it was to emphasize the feeling of a national unity. Then peace reigned but, alas, only for as long as the king lived.

The first well-known set of lyrics to Highland Cathedral was by Ben Kelly. Two more recent versions are by singer songwriters Terry Mechan and Moira Kerr (her version is given below).



Highland Cathedral, Saint Columba Church of Scotland

*Land of the thistle and the rowan tree
Scotland a nation, proud and free.
Under the Saltire, flying high for me,
Leading us onward to victory.*

*Aiming high for all to see,
Together we stand, with faith in our land.
In times of trial and in victory,
Scotland we will be there.*

*High in the mountains the die was cast,
By our forefathers in the past.
Vows of unity and peace were made,
In a Highland cathedral, where the pipers played.*

KELPIES ...from previous page

to the water and keep on going. Keep galloping under until the rider's feet were under, knees, chest, and then screaming mouth. The kelpie would dive under the water and drown its rider in the depths of the cold dark loch.

This is the story that all children living near a loch were told. To beware of horses they didn't know, and to beware of the edge of the loch.

But only those with very wise grannies heard the full story. Heard that kelpies can take on more than just one shape....

To find out more about the Kelpie Water Horse visit www.scotclans.com/scotland/scottish-myths/scottish-monsters/kelpie.



Kelpies in Falkirk, Scotland

Other Scottish monster stories are told by Scottish writer and storyteller Lari Don. Her new book, *First Aid for Fairies and Other Fabled Beasts*, a Scottish adventure story for children. More details about the book and her storytelling on www.laridon.co.uk

CLAY TODAY ARTICLE

Congratulations to First Coast Highlanders for a nicely written article, "Marching On" by Karassa Stinchcomb, published in the *Clay Today* the week of July 5th. Follow the link to read the full article.

www.claytodayonline.com/stories/marching-on,12115

Karassa Stinchcomb spent an evening with us at Orange Park Presbyterian Church during practice. She talked with all of us, asking us questions about bagpiping and drumming.

Karassa told us this was her first time listening to bagpipes. She also informed us that while doing the story on FCH she received an education that evening. She walked away with a little higher step and a rhythm in her walk. Thanks, Karassa, nicely done.



Top: Instructor Art Tenney with his Student Blake; middle: Student Brooklyn; bottom: Pipers Circle (we don't normally wear our kilt to practice, but this evening was special!).

BAND CAMP TIME!

It's that time of year that First Coast Highlanders members and students attend the North American Academy of Piping and Drumming (NAAPD), aka, Band Camp. Five Pipers and 3 drummers drove up to Valle Crucis, NC to attend a week long intense training session of piping and drumming. Pipers and drummers alike will participate in three classes a day, be immersed with professional pipers and drummer from around the country. I attended two years ago, and I think I slept with my practice chanter

at my pillow. Trust that pipers, Jim R., Robert A., Greg M., Vince H., Steve C. and drummers Evan B., Scot Y. and Sully will bring back a wealth of knowledge not only making themselves better bagpipers and drummers but putting finishing touches to the First Coast Highlanders band.



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!

DIAMOND

Mrs. Beverly Radez • Northeast Florida Scottish Highland Games • St. Andrews Society of Jacksonville

PLATINUM

Arthur and Susanne Tenney • Dr. June Gentle
Will Wheeler • David King Law Firm • Romanza St. Augustine • Sigma Marketing

GOLD

Alexis Malcolm Kilts • Ameris Bank • Orange Park Furniture
Jim and Kathi Overby • Cmdr. and Mrs. James Roberts • Stephen and Jane Romeo

SILVER

Joanne Anderson • BJ's Warehouse • Clayton and Harriett Kicklighter • Lee and Susan McKay
Albert and Pat Syeles • Carol A. Vavrek • Janet and Paul Stake • G's Slow Smoked BBQ
Gwendoline Wilson • Winn-Dixie • Hardage-Giddens Holly Hill Funeral Home
Concert on the Green • Hardage-Giddens Rivermeade Funeral Home • Tim Wilson
Military Museum of North Florida • Carter and Irene Cheatum • St John Academy • Brenda Parker
Gale Trotter • Barbara Holloway • John Lynch • Greg and Dora McClelland

Please take a few minutes to look at our sponsors. By giving them your business you are supporting us!

SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM — BECOME A SPONSOR!

SILVER (\$100 - \$249)	GOLD (\$250 - \$499)	PLATINUM (\$500 - \$999)	DIAMOND (\$1,000 & UP)
<i>Listing in our newsletter and on our web site with a link to your site.</i>	<i>Listing in our newsletter, listing on our web site with a link to your site and a band shirt.</i>	<i>Listing in our newsletter, listing on our web site with a link to your site and a band shirt.</i>	<i>Listing in our newsletter, listing on our web site with a link to your site, a band shirt and a performance.</i>

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, 2019, and we are a 501 (c)(3) non-profit charitable organization and all donations are tax deductible.

FIRST COAST HIGHLANDERS

SPONSORSHIP LEVEL:

☐ BOOSTER CLUB ☐ SILVER ☐ GOLD ☐ PLATINUM ☐ DIAMOND

THANK YOU!

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Mail with your check to First Coast Highlanders, 9703 NW 219th Street, Starke, FL 32091.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!