

THE CLAY PIPER

First Coast Highlanders Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 4

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FEBRUARY 2019

Presidents Corner

Greetings, Trust everyone has had a marvelous Holiday. And, if you are reading this current issue of The Clay Piper you have survived another year and rung in the new year with much celebration. We have a busy 2019 ahead of us. If you check out the upcoming performances elsewhere in this newsletter, you'll see what I mean. Of course, the highlight of our performance schedule is the Northeast Florida Scottish Games on the last Saturday in February, (23rd). If you haven't seen a Highland Game, I recommend that you go once, just for something different. The many times I have gone, I still haven't seen everything there is to see. Hope to see you there. We have learned some new tunes, which we hope you will enjoy. There will be some new faces among us, both pipers and drummers, be sure to step up to the circle, I look forward to meeting you and shaking your hand. First Coast Highlanders have been working hard over the past year to be ready for these Games and we look forward to entertaining you. If you can't make it to the Games, please check out our web site where you will find a calendar of our events and maybe you can attend one of those. Thanks for your support, and maybe you will be a part of us in the future. Enjoy the



newsletter. EJB

What is your Clan?

For this issue of "The Clay Piper" we asked our new drumming student Marion Kelly Mulero to provide everyone with her clan information. She has provided us with a very interesting story from one that was raised in Scotland.

Well, there seems to be a long-standing debate in my family with regards to what clan we actually belong. We're all a bunch a bam's. My Great Granny insists that our family name Kelly is a by name of the MacDonald Clan.

In the context of a Scottish clans, septs are families that followed another family's chief, or part of the extended family and that hold a different surname. In my case the Clan Donald or otherwise known as Clan MacDonald. Surnames that are recognized septs of the Clan Donald, a Scottish clan of the Scottish Highlands, known as Highlanders. The Clan was known as "The Lord of The Isles." Hence, where my family resides now is Oban, the gate way to the Isles. Kelly: Are only those from West Highlands and Islands and must have originally been a MACKELLY/MACKELLOCH.

Now my granddad says that we are descendants from O'Kelly. "KELLY", (Irish Gaelic: O Ceallaigh) O'KELLY is a genuine 'O' surname which belongs to the oldest class of native Irish surnames. It means 'Descendent of Ceallach' (war or contention) and is the name of several distinct and illustrious families in various parts of Ireland. O'KELLY was chief of the great Maine clan and ruled over an extensive territory in the counties of Galway and Roscommon.

Whilst the name "O'Kelly" dominated from the Viking Era in the 9th century to the middle of the 16th century, the



"O" was dropped during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and the name became Kelly. This arose from the policy of Queen Elizabeth I of England to break the influence of the Gaelic chieftains by rewarding them with land and noble status in return for abandoning their Irish customs. Typical of this was the granting of land and rights to Colla O'Kelly, Seventh Lord of Screen in 1601AD in exchange

for him dropping the "O" from the surname (Scottish Kelly as opposed to Irish Kelly). From the lands of Kelly near Arbroath in Angus. There is another Kellie near to Pittenweem in Fife. But all references point to Arbroath as the source of the surname.

My family joke with me, telling me I don't have a clan because I'm a "Wandering Willy." However, I tell them, "I would rather be chief-less." They sometimes call me a traitor for leaving my homelands. Don't you just love family? (Continued Next Page)

SCOTLAND 2020



First Coast Highlanders is planning a trip to Scotland, June of 2020. We are celebrating 10 years as a Bagpipe Band. If you are interested stay connected to our web site and future newsletters.



A grand one to talk with.

So, when I was asked what my clan is because I come from Scotland? My family, we represent 2 clans. Donald/MacDonald and Kelly/ O'Kelly. *Rather confusing but I won't really know what clan I can hang my hat on for certain until I do my ancestry tree one day soon.*

You see Marion is a True Scottish Lass, she carries a drum and a large weapon.

Scottish Folklore

Ghost of Mary Queen of Scots

If you have been to Scotland, I'm sure you have visited many of the wonderful sites available to keep you busy during your visit. Do you believe in Ghosts? Maybe the queen will say hi the next time you're in Scotland.

Borthwick castle stands near Gorebridge, just a short drive from the city of Edinburgh. A breathtaking and beautiful building, the castle was built over 600 years ago and has seen its fair share of gory drama.

In its long lifetime, Borthwick castle has seen a number of established and famous guests pass through its rooms. Guests including Mary Queen of Scots have stayed at the hotel, and some would argue they have stayed for longer than we thought.

In 1567 Mary sought a place of sanctuary. The Scottish noblemen wanted her captured and she needed a place to hide. While over 1,000 men surrounded Borthwick Castle, Mary managed to sneak away through a window, and dressed as a page boy. Although she left the castle that day in body, many say that even to this day her spirit wanders back to her place of solace from time to time.

Other paranormal activity at Borthwick castle has been reported by guests and investigators alike. From voices with no bodies to mysterious banging and clicking noises, other spooky and unexplainable things include light anomalies and guests being overcome with extreme sickness.

There is one room that many avoid. The Red Room is a specific room in the castle that has terrified so many people that the owners of Borthwick castle are rumored



to have hired a priest from Edinburgh to carry out an exorcism on it. There are many tales of tragic and spooky goings on in the famous Red Room. One of which tells of a young servant girl, who gave birth to an illegitimate

Borthwick son in the room. Being a potential threat to the title, both the servant girl and her poor child were killed. Fast forward a few decades and another story tells of the Borthwick family's chancellor, who used the Red Room to store all his embezzled valuables in. The safes remain in the walls of the room to this day. Rumor has it that the Borthwick's found out their chancellor was embezzling money, and instead of confronting him, they decided to stop him on his way home from Edinburgh one day and burn him to death.

Many have reported spotting ghosts of the servant girl as well as the chancellor as they make their way through the infamous Red Room.

FCH - New Officers

First Coast Highlanders conducted their Annual General Meeting on January 10, 2019.

Congratulations to the newly elected officers for 2019.

President:	Evan Brown
Vice President:	Scott Young
Secretary:	Danise Young
Treasurer:	Will Wheeler
Member at Large:	Greg McClelland
Quartermaster:	Robert Arthurs
Band Business Mgr.:	Art Tenney

May you all have another successful 2019. May the membership of bagpipers and drummers prosper to fulfill the entertainment of the crowds you collect.

FCH - New Pipe Major

First Coast Highlanders welcomes Bob Simpson as the newly elected Pipe Major for 2019. Will Wheeler is stepping down after serving three years as temporary PM. Bob has been under the watchful eye and guidance of Will Wheeler. Bob will add his leadership and expertise to new levels. Bob has been playing bagpipes for the past nine years with FCH. He started his bagpipe playing with the Khedive Shrine Club in Norfolk, VA many years ago as a young lad. We look forward to new musical leadership. WELCOME BOB

SCOTTISH HISTORY Auld Lang Syne

"Auld Lang Syne" is a Scottish poem written by Robert Burns in 1788. The song asks whether old friends and times will be forgotten and promises to remember people of the past with fondness.

It is often sung to celebrate the start of the New Year at the stroke of midnight (**Hogmanay in Scotland**). By extension, its use has also become common at funerals, graduations, and as a farewell or ending to other occasions.

Some consider it to be an international expression of friendship, fellowship and hope. Others perceive it to be a simple song, presented at the conclusion of a social gathering, remembering the past and re-affirming the importance of our future, and those important to us.

In Scotland it is often sung and danced at the end of a ceilidh. It is common practice that everyone joins hands with the person next to them to form a great circle around the dance floor. At the beginning of the last verse, everyone crosses their arms across their breast, so that the right hand reaches out to the neighbor on the left and vice versa. When the tune ends, everyone



rushes to the middle, while still holding hands. When the circle is re-established, everyone turns under the arms to end up facing outwards with hands still joined. In countries other than Scotland the hands are often crossed from the beginning of the song at variance with Scottish custom.

« Auld Lang Syne » the song's Scots title may be translated into English literally as "Old Long Since", or more idiomatically, "Long, Long Ago", "Days Gone By" or "Old Times". It has been translated in French by "It Is Just a Goodbye".

English composer William Shield seems to quote the "Auld Lang Syne" melody briefly at the end of the overture to his opera Rosina, which may be its first recorded use. Burns borrowed the melody from Shield they may very well both have taken it from a common source, possibly a strathspey called The Miller's Wedding or The Miller's Daughter.

There are many customs, both national and local, associated with **Hogmanay**. The most widespread is the practice of 'first-footing' which starts immediately after midnight. This involves being the first person to cross the threshold of a friend or neighbor and often involves the giving of symbolic gifts such as coal, shortbread, whisky, and black bun (a rich fruit cake) intended to bring different kinds of luck to the householder.

Those going out first footing should carry a bottle to offer a drink, a lump of coal to signify that the house will keep warm, bring comfort and be safe for the year, black bun, or more modernly shortbread, to signify that the household won't go hungry for the year and a silver coin to bring prosperity to the household for the new year.

The first-foot is supposed to set the luck for the rest of the year. Traditionally, tall dark men are preferred as the first-foot. This stems back to the 4th - 12th century when unwelcome visitors to this shore were Vikings who were short and fair-haired. It is considered luckier to have the opposite type of person to visit. He or she should be honest, healthy, good tempered and liked by all. They must not be carrying a sharp object like a knife. It is not

unusual for a household to choose a first footer and decide prior to Hogmanay. Women and red-haired people are considered unlucky first footers, as is a person who first foots empty handed with no gift. Such a person will bring bad luck to the household for the rest of the year. Scottish hospitality means that the unlucky first footer cannot be turned away and must come in for some refreshment. Some households overcome this bad luck by asking the person to throw salt on an open fire if they have one or placing a piece of burning straw up the chimney. Roman Catholics will cross themselves if an unlucky first footer arrives at their house. Others make a cross from Rowan twigs and place this at their front door. If an unlucky first footer arrives, they touch this twig cross three times saying the name of their God each time before the first footer speaks.

During the day of Hogmanay, the household would be busy cleaning so that the New Year could be welcomed into a tidy and neat house. It is considered ill luck to welcome in the New Year in a dirty uncleaned house. Fireplaces would be swept out and polished and some people would read the ashes of the very last fire of the year, to see what the New Year would hold.

Any visitors who arrive before the chimes of midnight on New Year's Eve would have to be violently shooed away to prevent bad luck. At midnight the man of the house would open the back door to let the old year out and then open the front door of the house to let in the new year. There has always been a strong connection between Scotland and France which dates back to the Auld Alliance between the two countries when they shared a common Queen who was Mary, Queen of Scots. She lived in France for a short time during her childhood and was the Queen of France for a brief period. When she returned to Scotland, she introduced many customs to the country and French words to the Scots language.

It is generally agreed that Burns was not the author of the words except for two verses, judged as the best and the only ones everyone knows. It is often remarked that "Auld Lang Syne" is one of the most popular songs that nobody knows the lyrics to.

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Scottish Funnies

What does the Loch Ness monster eat?

Fish and ships

How can you tell if a bagpipe is out of tune? Someone is blowing into it.

How do you disperse an angry Scottish mob?

Take up a collection.

The local train stopped at a station long enough for the passengers to stretch their legs.

Sniffing the pure, clean air with appreciation, a passenger said to the guard: 'Invigorating, isn't it?' 'No,' he replied. 'Inveraray.'

Old Scottish History:

[Who was the first King of Scotland?]

Kenneth McAlpin (810–858) was not, as is popularly claimed, the first king of Scotland. What McAlpin did was in 842 take advantage of the Picts who had been severely weakened militarily by punitive Viking raids, and unite the kingdom of the Gaels with that of Pictavia. But while he ruled over the whole of Scotland north of the river Forth, large parts of the country were still in the hands of the Vikings in the north and Islands, and in the south the Anglo-Saxons ruled.



But McAlpin was referred to as king of the Picts, a title conferred on him at his coronation on Moot Hill at Scone, Perthshire, in 843 AD. It was not until the reign of Donald II (889–900) that the monarch became known as the ri Alban (king of Alba). McAlpin's achievement was to create a long-lasting dynasty that gradually extended the territorial

borders of Scotland both north and south, but it was not until 1469 that what we know as Scotland today was established.

[What Wallace was in the South. De Moray was in the North of Scotland]

Andrew de Moray, in the winter of 1297 escaped from an English prison and immediately began to organize the resistance in the north of Scotland against English rule. By the end of the year his forces were in control of Moray 'Shire and had taken possession of the principal castles of the region, including Elgin and Inverness.



De Moray's success in the north was matched by Wallace's in the south. After the defeat of the English at Stirling Bridge in September 1297 de Moray was mentioned along with Wallace in letters as 'the leaders of the army and of the realm of Scotland'. However, victory came at a price: de Moray was wounded at Stirling and died two months later.

FCH Upcomming Events

January 27, 2019 – 2 Services 9 & 11 AM

Kirkin O the Tartan

St Simons Presbyterian Church
St. Simons Island, GA

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February 17, 2019 – 10:00 AM

Kirkin O the Tartan (Prior to Games)

St. Giles Presbyterian Church
Orange Park, FL

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February 23, 2019 – 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

NE Florida Scottish Games

Clay County Fairgrounds
SR 16 Green Cove Springs, FL

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March 5, 2019 – 6:00 PM

International Pancake Day

IHOP, Blanding Blvd
Orange Park, FL

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March 9 & 10, 2019 – 10:00 AM until Dark

St. Patrick's Day Parade & Celtic Festival

Francis Field
St. Augustine, FL

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March 17, 2019 – 2 – 6 PM

St Patrick's Day Entertainment

Meehan's Irish Pub and Restaurant
St. Augustine, FL

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March 17, 2019 – 6:30 PM

St. Patrick's Vespers

St. Cyprians Episcopal Church
St. Augustine, FL

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April 4 – 14, 2019

Clay Co. Agricultural Fair

CR-16
Green Cove Springs, FL

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St Andrews Society - Jacksonville



Stop by the booth of "The Saint Andrews Society of Jacksonville" at the NE Florida Scottish Highland games, Feb 23rd. They study and perpetuate Scottish traditions and culture, including Scotland's history, heraldry, pageantry, music, literature, language, crafts, and all

the arts of Scotland. They promote friendly association between its members and the Scottish community at large. Stop by and become a member or click on the link and check out their web site.

<http://www.jaxstandrews.org/index.htm>



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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

<http://firstcoasthighlanders.com>

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Band Manager,
ART TENNEY
piper10y@aol.com
(904) 368-8177



TO ALL THINGS SCOTTISH!

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