

THE CLAY PIPER

First Coast Highlanders Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 4

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FEBRUARY 2020

Member Spotlight

This quarter we Spotlight First Coast Highlanders Band Manager, Art Tenney. Art is the founders of this bagpipe band and has kept it going through the highs and lows for the last 10 years. He is a Piper too. Thank you, Art, for all you do.



NAME: ARTHUR TENNEY

WHERE ARE YOU FROM: I was born and raised in Albany, NY. In January 1998 I moved to Ft. Lauderdale, FL. In 2008 I moved to Clay County Florida and am currently living in Starke, FL.

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR A LIVING? I am a US Army retiree and served as an LPN, retiring in 2007. I completed my Army career in the Army Reserves and National Guard with a total of 36 years. In 1991 my unit was activated for Desert Storm and served at Walter Reed Medical Center. I was also deployed serving at the cadet clinic at West Point Academy. As a civilian, I worked for the State of New York in budgeting and finance.

CURRENT FAMILY: I am married to Susanne and we currently live in Starke, FL with our dogs. I have a daughter who lives in Columbus, Ohio and two boys living in the Albany, NY area.

DO YOU HAVE A SCOTTISH / IRISH CLAN? I am a Campbell on my fathers' side. My Mother is also of Scottish descent and is of Clan Urquhart. Clan Urquhart castle is located on the banks of Loch Ness.

WHEN DID YOU START PLAYING BAGPIPES OR DRUMS? I started learning bagpipes in May 1969. While on active duty at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, two pipers would play outside the enlisted men's club on Friday nights. I would listen and watch as they played. At that point

the bug had been planted and thinking to myself, "I can do that." After returning home, to Albany, I noticed in the Sunday newspaper article that the local pipe and drum band was looking for people to learn how to play bagpipes or drums. With the bug already planted, the rest is history and the lessons began.

WHAT / HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW First Coast Highlanders: May of 2009, with bagpipes boiling in my blood and living in Clay County, I noticed the Clay County Sheriff's department was in need of a piper. I asked the sheriff at that time if they would support a pipe band? They were interested and in 2009 I started "The Clay County Sheriff's Office Pipes and Drums." We continued until 2016 when the "First Coast Highlanders" was formed. In 2016 we became "First Coast Highlanders" pipe and drum band.

WHAT HAVE YOUR LIFE ACHIEVEMENTS BEEN: I have watched many pipers and drummers come through this pipe band, starting with little to no knowledge of Scottish bagpipes or drums. then go on to be graded pipers and drummers. In 2019, First Coast Highlanders was honored to perform with the professional Irish band "The Chieftains" in Gainesville at Phillips Theatre. Another achievement was playing my bagpipes in Scotland during a band trip in 2014.

Pipe Majors Music Stand

Stand-by; here we go again, another busy piping and drumming year on the books for 2020. Several events have been scheduled in our community. We continue to prepare ourselves for a trip to Scotland. First Coast Highlanders visited Scotland back in 2014 but we wanted to go again to celebrate the bands 10th anniversary. Always exciting to visit that ancient country to soak up the deep heritage that many of us try to emulate. We have received a donation from one of the clan chiefs in Scotland that will help defray the cost of this trip. We have prepared ourselves with the clan music to show our appreciation. Prior to our Scotland trip in June 2020, we will be entertaining the crowds at the NE Florida Scottish Highland Games in Green Cove Springs. Also, the following month in March, St. Patrick's Day / weekend First Coast Highlanders will again be tending the adult beverage tent and playing our pipes and drums. A very busy time for all band members.

The band performing members are working hard with many hours of practice. The Pipe Major, Pipe Sergeant and Drum Sergeant continue to apply pressure to the pipers and drummers to continually practice to improve. All the students are working hard striving for a position in the Performing Member "Pipers Circle."

Look forward to seeing our band supporters and those who enjoy the Celtic music we play at all of our events. If you catch us playing at an event, please come up to us, shake our hand and show your support. Don't forget to purchase a 2020 calendar, which will defray the cost of the Scotland Trip.

SCOTTISH MUSIC-Green Hills of Tyrol

The Green Hills of Tyrol is one of the best known, and oldest, tunes played by pipe bands today. It was originally from the opera "William Tell" by Rossini, but was transcribed to the pipes in 1854 by Pipe Major John MacLeod after he heard it played by a Sardinian military band when serving in the Crimean War with his Regiment, the 93rd Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Pipe Major MacLeod himself was well liked in his Regiment, and had a reputation for selflessness and amiability.

In October of that year MacLeod and five other pipers participated in the event that made the Regiment's reputation. The Russian heavy cavalry had taken the Causeway Heights, and its gun emplacements, above the supply port of Balaclava. Only the Sutherland Highlanders under Sir Colin Campbell stood between them and the port – the capture of which would have ended the campaign there and then.

The heavy cavalry rolled down the hill onto the 93rd. Ordered to die where they stood if need be, the 93rd was formed into an extended line two ranks deep rather than in the defensive square formation more usually adopted by infantry facing a cavalry attack. The 93rd stood its ground, firing controlled volleys into the attacking cavalry. The cavalry faltered and veered to the left of the 93rd exposing their flank to more fire.

The Russians were then beaten off by an audacious uphill charge. The repelling of a heavy cavalry charge by grossly outnumbered infantry was an unprecedented achievement. The feat was witnessed by The Times' war correspondent who immortalized the 93rd as "the thin red streak tipped with a line of steel" Unfortunately, the debacle of the charge of the Light Brigade later that same day led to a stalemate at Balaclava and the war dragged on throughout the winter.

When the Crimean campaign finally ended the 93rd were immediately dispatched to fight in the Indian Mutiny. In this campaign Pipe Major MacLeod distinguished himself at the siege of Lucknow when he was first through the breach and almost immediately began playing the pipes. This tune, which refers to a corner of Austria, strangely entered Scottish ballad repertoire. But Scots have resolved the tension by composing a song known as "*A Scottish Soldier*" dedicated to the Scots who have been fighting in wars all over the world and sometimes did not return to their native land.



==== Lyrics ====

There was a soldier, a Scottish soldier,
Who wandered far away and soldiered far away,
There was none bolder, with good broad shoulders,
He fought in many a fray and fought and won.
He's seen the glory, he's told the story,
Of battles glorious and deeds victorious.
But now he's sighing, his heart is crying,
To leave these green hills of Tyrol.

Chorus

***Because these green hills are not Highland hills
Or the Island's hills, they're not my land's hills, as
fair as these green foreign hills may be they are
not the hills of home.***

And now this soldier, this Scottish soldier,
Who wandered far away and soldiered far away,

Sees leaves are falling, and death is calling,
And he will fade away, on that dark land.
He called his piper, his trusty piper,
And bade him sound away, a pibroch sad to play,
Upon a hillside, a Scottish hillside
Not on these green hills of Tyrol

Chorus

And now this soldier, this Scottish soldier,
Who wanders far no more, and soldiers far no more,
Now on a hillside, a Scottish hillside,
You'll see a piper play this soldier home.
He's seen the glory, he's told the story,
Of battles glorious, and deeds victorious;
But he will cease now, he is at peace now,
Far from these green hills of Tyrol

Chorus

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Scottish Knowledge -From the Past

The enchanted 'Faery' bagpipes of Kinlochmoidart

These pipes were made by a MacIntyre piper more than 800 years ago. The 'Faery' bagpipes of Kinlochmoidart, are thought to be the oldest Highland pipes known. The legend is that the MacIntyre piper had a dream where a "faery" (fairy) came to him and said: "Heat up your poker until it's white hot and pierce the bottom of your chanter side to side and it will make the sweetest sounding pipes in Scotland." The chanter is the part of the bagpipe upon which the player creates the melody. The 'Faery' bagpipes are said to be the first with these two holes.



These pipes were played at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. The Battle of Bannockburn on 23 and 24 June 1314 was a Scottish victory by King of Scots Robert the Bruce against the English army of King Edward II in the First War of Scottish Independence. Legend has it that the 'Faery' pipes have never been played by the losing side of a battle. They are now kept in the West Highland Museum in Fort William (Scottish Gaelic: An Gearasdan) in the Scottish Highlands. Notice also this set of bagpipes only has one drone pipe.

SCOTTISH PANCAKE DAY

Back in the day when pancake ingredients such as milk, eggs and butter were forbidden during lent there was a dedicated day to use these up so they didn't go to waste. This day is now commonly known as Pancake Day! For the past several years, First Coast Highlanders has helped the International House of Pancakes (IHOP) to celebrate their pancake day, usually in March. Come enjoy the fun.

In Scotland there are various traditional treats to be made on this day. For one, there is the Scotch Pancake (also known as a dropped scone) which originates from a traditional Scottish scone. In the past it was typically cooked on



a griddle for the flat surface, however, for ease today a lot of people use a pan. The pancake itself is thicker and smaller than the typical fluffy American pancake. Want to try something slightly different? Why not try a Scots crumpet? These use the same ingredients as pancakes and are wider than the English crumpets. The crumpets are traditionally rolled up before eating and are best served with butter and jam.

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New Year New Officers

First Coast

Highlanders held their Annual General Meeting, January 9th 2020. Good food, and fellowship abounded. Awards were presented and election of officers for the 2020 piping and drumming year were voted on. Community Service Certificates were presented to First Coast Highlanders performing members and those who supported the band in 2019. 5,922 community service hours were donated by band members and the support teams in support of the bands efforts, entertaining and educating the community. A Pipe Major Appreciation Award was presented to Robert Arthurs for his assistance to the Pipe Major along with his dedication to First Coast Highlanders in 2019.

Congratulations to the newly elected officers for 2020.

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

May you all have a successful 2020. May the membership of bagpipers and drummers prosper to fulfill the entertainment of the crowds you collect.

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Up-Coming Events

Sunday, February 9th 2020 8:30AM
Kirkin of the Tartan
St. Simons Presbyterian Church
St. Simons Island, GA

Friday February 21, 2020 @ 8:30AM – 1:00PM
International Day
Chimney Lakes Elementary School
Argyle Forest Blvd Jacksonville, FL

Sunday February 23rd 2020 10AM
Kirkin of the Tartan (before the Games)
St Giles Presbyterian Church
Orange Park, FL

Saturday February 29th 2020 ALL DAY
NE Florida Scottish Games
Clay County Fair Grounds
Green Cove Springs, FL

Saturday & Sunday March 14-15, 2020 10AM-7PM
St Augustine Celtic Festival
St. Francis Field, St. Augustine, FL

Sunday March 15, 2020 @ 6:30PM
St. Patrick Vespers
St Cyprians Episcopal Church
St. Augustine, FL

Tuesday March 17, 2020 @ 2PM – 6PM
St. Patrick's Day Celebration
Meehan's Irish Pub and Restaurant
St. Augustine, FL

April 2 – 11, 2020
Clay County Fair
Main Street Parade on the 2nd and 9th
Clay County Agricultural Fairgrounds
Green Cove Springs, FL

April 19, 2020 @ 12:00 Noon
Kilted Golf Tournament
March Landing Golf Club
Ponte Vedra, FL

Many events were attended by FCH members. Our first ever Car and Bike show was a success at the Military Museum in Green Cove Springs. Veterans Day ceremonies were also attended at Magnolia Park in Orange Park and at the end of the day we were in St Augustine Beach.



St. Augustine Beach Veterans Ceremony



USO ½ Marathon Jacksonville, FL



WE ARE RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS



MUSICIANS, PIPERS / DRUMMERS

WITH A DESIRE TO LEARN!

FIRST COAST HIGHLANDERS IS A BAGPIPE AND DRUM BAND BASED IN CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA.

WE ARE A PERFORMANCE AND ENTERTAINMENT BAND, AN INSTRUCTIONAL ORGANIZATION, AND A CULTURAL GROUP. OUR GOAL IS TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THE CELTIC CULTURE IN OUR COMMUNITY BY PROVIDING INSTRUCTION, FREE OF CHARGE TO ANYONE INTERESTED IN LEARNING THE GREAT HIGHLAND BAGPIPE OR HIGHLAND DRUMS.

IF YOU ARE COMMITTED TO PLAYING THE FINEST IN TRADITIONAL SCOTTISH AND IRISH MUSIC, WE WANT YOU! PLAYING AN INSTRUMENT OR READING MUSIC IS NOT A REQUIREMENT AS WE HAVE SOME OF THE FINEST PIPERS AND DRUMMERS AS INSTRUCTORS.

WE MEET EVERY THURSDAY EVENING AT ORANGE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LOCATED AT 1905 PARK AVENUE ORANGE PARK. LESSONS BEGIN AT 5:00 PM.

WE INVITE YOU TO COME AND CHECK US OUT FOR YOURSELF! NOTHING TO LOSE, BUT YOU'LL GAIN A WONDERFUL UNDERSTANDING OF THE SCOTTISH CULTURE.

SCOTLAND OR BUST

First Coast Highlanders is returning to Scotland June 2020. We are working on plans to perform at different historical sites while in Scotland. We want to enhance the bonds between the people of Scotland and USA

Fund raising continues and you can help send the band to Scotland by participating in one or all of the events below.

If you like coffee you can purchase 12-ounce bags of coffee beans from band members. Our coffee beans are from Guatemala.

For those of you who liked our 2014 and 2015 calendars, we are currently selling our 2020 calendar. This is the Bands **10 year anniversary issue** and you can have your very own for a small donation of \$10.00. Pick one up from any of the band members or by attending one of our many events.

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You may also send a tax-deductible contribution to us marked **"Scotland Trip."** When making this type of contribution, your name will be listed in our quarterly newsletter, on our web site, and Facebook page.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

<http://firstcoasthighlanders.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/firstcoasthighlanders/>

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TO ALL THINGS SCOTTISH!

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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 15th, 2020, and we are a 501 (c)(3) non-profit charitable organization and all donations are tax deductible.

## FIRST COAST HIGHLANDERS

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**THANK YOU!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!**