

THE CLAY PIPER

First Coast Highlanders Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 3

www.firstcoasthighlanders.com

www.facebook.com/firstcoasthighlanders

NOV 2020

Member Spotlight

— This quarter, “The Clay Piper” First Coast Highlanders would like to recognize Greg McClelland a Scottish lad from Clan MacLellan. Greg has been a member of the piper circle for about 5 years and has become a big asset to this band. Thanks Greg!



Where am I from? I was born in Seattle, but spent most of my youth overseas (Thailand, Argentina, Peru—my father was an airline employee). I returned to New England, my father's part of the country, to finish high school and college, so I identify most with that region.

My profession? Retiree now, but during my career, attorney.

How did I get there? I was subject to the draft lottery while in college, and I was a loser (I drew a low number, which meant that as soon as I left college, it was Vietnam). Thus, I had two motivations to stay in college: (1) student deferment from the draft, and (2) I met my wife Dora. When I graduated, I was drafted, but too late for Vietnam, so Dora and I spent 19 months in Germany, where I was a battalion legal clerk. I hated the Army, but loved the law, so when I got out, I went to law school, then went back into the Army as a JAG (Army lawyer—go figure!).

My career. Twenty years in the Army (2 enlisted; 18 as a JAG); 15 years with two federal agencies: Department of Defense Inspector General and Office of Special Counsel.

My family. Dora (my wife of 48 years); one son in California; one daughter in Groton, CT; one daughter and two grandsons in Charlottesville, VA.

My clan. MacLellan. See his article on his clan in the August 2017 issue of “The Clay Piper.”

How did I come to bagpipes? I met Art Tenney

at a St. Andrews Society picnic in 2015, heard his soulful rendition of “Happy Birthday” on the pipes, was hooked, and told him I’d always wanted to learn. He told me he’d teach me for free on Thursday nights...the rest is history.



Scottish Music - “All the Blue Bonnets are Over the Border”

This is a famous Scottish ballad about Bonnie Prince Charlie's 1745 march into England. Traditional highland dress included a blue beret (bonnet), and due to the large number of Highlanders in the Jacobite Army, the sight of blue berets became associated with the flowers of *Succisa pratensis*, locally called the “blue bonnet” in Scotland.

By extension the name was also applied to the garden flower [Centaurea montana](#).

During the 18th century the bonnet was, to outsiders, the most readily identifiable Scottish piece of clothing in the popular imagination. [Tartan](#) would occupy this role in the following century. Despite its earlier association with the Covenanters, adorned with a

white cockade the blue bonnet was also adopted as an emblem of [Jacobitism](#).^[8] Its

political symbolism became overt: one night in December 1748, over two years after the failure of the [1745 Jacobite rising](#), someone scaled the [Edinburgh Parliament House](#) and dressed the lion in the [Scottish royal arms](#) in a white wig, blue bonnet, and large white cockade.^[9] The association was reinforced by later nostalgic Jacobite songs, such as



All the Blue Bonnets Over the Border

March, march, Ettrick and Teviotdale,
Why the devil donna ye march forward in order?
March, march, Eskdale and Clydesdale,
All the Blue Bonnets are bound for the Border.
Many a banner spread
Flutters above your head,
Many a crest that is famous in story.
Mount and make ready then,
Sons of the mountain glen,
Fight for the Queen and the old Scottish glory.

Come from the hills where your horses are grazing,
Come from the glen of the buck and the roe;
Come to the crag where the beacon is blazing,
Come with the buckler, the lance, and the bow.
Trumpets are sounding,
War-steeds are bounding,
Stand to your arms then, and march in good order;
England shall many a day
Tell of the bloody fray,
When the Blue Bonnets came over the Border.

“Play well my fellow pipers & drummers. Play Strong and Proud.”

=====

The Highland Midge

The **Highland Midge** ([scientific name](#): *Culicoides impunctatus*; [Scots](#): *Midgie*; [Scottish Gaelic](#): *Meanbh-chuilleag*). These are a species of a small flying insect. They are found throughout the British Isles, Scandinavia, other regions of Northern Europe, Russia and Northern China in upland and lowland areas (fens, bogs and marshes). In the northwest of [Scotland](#) and northern [Wales](#) the highland midge is usually very prevalent from late spring to late summer.

If you've ever batted swarms of tiny insects from your head at dusk, you've probably encountered a midge. These bugs might be small, but they can be extremely annoying. Although some types of midges are nothing more than a nuisance, other types feed on human blood and cause painful welts on the skin when they bite you.

In 1711, the Rev. John Morrison was appointed Presbyterian minister of Gairloch, but the natives were Episcopalian. While traveling along the eastern shore of Loch Maree, the locals seized him, stripped him naked and left him bound to a tree. It was September: prime midge season. An account says

that: The sufferings of poor Mr. Morrison are said to have been dreadful. Towards evening a woman of the place took pity on him and released him from his miserable position.

Another victim was Bonnie Prince Charlie, when he was on the run after Culloden: “*The evening being very calm and warm, we greatly suffered by midges; to preserve the prince from such troublesome guests, we wrapped him head and feet in his plead, and covered him with long heather that naturally grew about a bit hollow ground we laid him. Leaving him in that posture, he uttered several heavy sighs and groans.*” At least the Prince suffered and shed some blood for Scotland at least once.

Midges don't generally come indoors; they are dispersed by wind and they can be intolerable on those still fall days. Unlike the past, today there are assorted lotions that can repel them so you can safely venture out with impunity. There is a mildly perverse pleasure obtained by sharing a drink alfresco (out doors) with friends in the Highlands when the midges are out making the air shimmer between you and never biting. It's like swimming with sharks.

=====

Scottish History – The Stone of Destiny

Becoming a king or queen means a big lavish celebration with lots of fancy traditions. Scottish ceremonies were no different - monarchs here wore a jewel encrusted crown, while holding an elaborate sword and a scepter. In Scotland these items were known as the Honors of Scotland. With all of the jewels, along with the pomp and circumstance, the king or queen sat on a big ole stone called the "Stone of Destiny." It's been used for enthroning Scottish monarchs at Iona, Dunadd and Scone. This stone which was an intricate part of this crowning ceremony sat under the coronation chair, where English and British sovereigns sit during their coronation, for 700 years. It had a turbulent past. The last King to use the stone was John Balliol in 1292. Then in 1296, just four years later, Edward I of England captured it and took it to Westminster Abbey in London where it stayed until 1950.

It's not known exactly where the Stone of Destiny came from however, there are several theories with one including biblical origins coming from the Holy Land and once belonging to the biblical Jacob. Many also say the stone was made in Scotland.

The stone of destiny is a piece of yellow sandstone weighing in at 336 pounds and measures 26 X16 X11 inches. The only marking on the stone is a Latin styled cross. The size of the stone would be no easy feat if you wanted to borrow it (steal it/kidnap it). That's exactly what some Scottish national college students completed on Christmas day 1950. You can check out the movie called the Stone of Destiny. These students kidnapped the stone and successfully kept it hidden in Scotland for four months until it was found and returned to Westminster. In 1996, St. Andrews Day, the stone was moved to Edinburgh Castle from London. About 10,000 people lined the Royal Mile in Edinburgh to watch a procession of dignitaries and troops escort the stone from the Palace of Holyroodhouse at the bottom of the royal mile, to the castle. The Stone of Destiny was last used during the coronation of HM The Queen in 1953.



Still Going to Scotland

First Coast Highlanders continues to plan for our trip to Scotland, June/July 2021. Since the COVID-19 pandemic canceled our 2020 trip, the board of directors and the Scotland Committee continues to put the wheels in motion planning for the trip. This will be a 10 day trip with many exciting plans and events scheduled. Band members will be taking their bagpipes and drums,

playing at a couple of castles who have graciously invited us to perform. If you would like to go along with the band, either on your own or being a band supporter, please give Art Tenney a call and your name can be added to the list.

As always, we have to wait with baited breath to see what will happen with the pandemic both here in the USA and in Scotland. Come be a part of the fun.

Upcoming Events

We continue to be challenged with the COVID-19 pandemic and all of its restrictions. However, First Coast Highlanders performing members and students continue to practice their social distancing and the use of face coverings while we practice at Orange Park Presbyterian Church parking lot. It's been tough, but all the band members just want to continue to improve as a family of bagpipers and drummers in preparation for upcoming events in 2020/2021. We encourage everyone to stay in touch with the band's activities by logging into our website <http://firstcoasthighlanders.com> where you can find our calendar of events. Currently, the band continues with Thursday evening practices. If you would like to join us for practice, shoot us a text on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/firstcoasthighlanders>. We would love to have you join us.

Saturday – Nov. 7th – 9am-3:00pm FCH Annual Car Show - Military Museum, Green Cove Springs, FL

Saturday – Nov. 14th - Middleburg Fall Festival - 2102 Palmetto Avenue, Middleburg, FL

Tuesday – January 12, 2021 – 11:00AM - Ron Parker Memorial Service – Ron Parker Memorial Park, St. Augustine, FL

Saturday – January 16, 2021, All Day – Mount Dora Scottish Festival – Mount Dora, FL

Saturday – February 27, 2021, NE Florida Scottish Games – Clay Co Fairgrounds - Green Cove Springs, FL

February 2021 – Date TBD – Kirkin of the Tartan – St Simons Island Presbyterian Church - St. Simons Island, GA

FUN AND GAMES

Answers to Crossword from "The Clay Piper" Aug 2020}

Across: 1 Nine 4 Head 6 Whole 7 Quarter 9 Gracenotes 16 Steady 17 Scale 18 Tempo 19 Crossing 21 BFlat 23 Border 26 Triplets 27 Common 28 Tachum
Down: 2 ACEG 3 GBDFA 5 Three 8 Longer 10 Tails 11 Grip 12 LowG 13 Drone 14 two 15 Throwon 20 Great 22 Sharps 24 Exercises 25 Reel

SPONSORS – THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

DIAMOND

[St. Andrews Society of Jacksonville](#)
[Northeast Florida Scottish Highland Games](#) • [Orange Park Presbyterian Church](#)
[Kelly Tomlinson, Realtor](#) • Susanne Tenney *in memory of* Beverly Radez • Robert C Simpson

PLATINUM

[Dr. June Gentle](#) • [Romanza St. Augustine](#)
 Will Wheeler • Arthur Tenney

GOLD

[Alexis Malcolm Kilts](#) • [Ameris Bank](#)
 Cmdr. and Mrs. James Roberts • Stephen and Jane Romeo
 John Lynch • D. Scott McClelland

SILVER

[BJ's Warehouse](#) • [Military Museum of North Florida](#) • [St John Academy](#)
 Albert and Pat Syeles • Greg and Dora McClelland • Geri Lynn Kane

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, a band hat and signed band photo.</i>	<i>Listing in our newsletter, & our web site with a link to your site, a band shirt/hat, signed band photo & 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, 2021, 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!