

THE CLAY PIPER

First Coast Highlanders Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 2

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AUG 2021

SCOTTISH MUSIC NOTES



"Scotland the Brave" is a patriotic song and one of the main contenders to be considered as a national anthem of Scotland. In June 2006, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra conducted an online poll on their website, asking visitors to choose a favorite to be Scotland's national anthem. With over 10,000 votes cast, "Flower of Scotland" came first with 41% of the votes, followed by

"Scotland the Brave" 29% - "Highland Cathedral" 16% - "A Man's A Man for A' That" 7% - "Scots Wha Hae" 6%.

It is of surprisingly recent origin, as it was published first around 1911 in a Boys' Brigade pipe tune book. But the tune appears to date from about 1891-5 when it was published in Norman Macdonald's *Gusto Collection of Highland Music* under the title "Scotland Forever" although the sentiment dates to at least the 1820s. It was probably originally a flute solo.

It is always listed as "Traditional". In other words, no one knows for certain who composed the tune.

The lyrics to *Scotland the Brave* were written by Scottish journalist, writer, author, songwriter, raconteur, after dinner speaker, historian, and broadcaster Cliff Hanley (1923-1999) in 1951 for performer, producer and music shop owner Robert Wilson who needed a song to close the act of his performance at a Christmas Scottish review musical show at the Glasgow Empire Theatre. Robert Wilson, who was at the time at the peak of his career, paid £25 to Hanley but refused to get the copyright. "Naw, naw son, this is far too good. I'd be cheating you if I took the rights to this," said Wilson. The song soon became popular with the Scots people and was quickly adopted as an unofficial national anthem.

The lyrics make no mention of wars against the English and read more as a reflection of Scots brave exploits coupled with a yearning for home. As such they more accurately reflect the emotional reflections of a Scottish soldier serving in the British army far from his highland home although it is not in any way melancholic in its tone.

By the late 19th century, the sound of the pipes was universally recognized as a precursor to the arrival of Scottish regiments whose military prowess was well known throughout the world. As well as instilling fear in the enemies of the British Empire it would raise the moral of those they were coming to relieve. Its entire tone is militaristic, stirring, and resonant of the Victorian pride in their Empire and Army among whom the Scottish regiments were portrayed and perceived as the most combative and militarily elite. The warrior traditions of the Scots run deep, and the song is felt by Scots to be a celebration of their bravery as a race, individually as well as nationally.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 16 (Thurs)— Clay Co. Farm Bureau — Clay County Fair Grounds, Green Cove Springs, FL

October 5 (Thurs) — 4-8 pm—Band Fund Raising Event at "Culver" of Middleburg—Come join the fun and entertainment too.

November 11 (Thurs) — Veterans Day Ceremonies— Schedule continues to be developed.



Flowers of the Forest

We continue to remember and honor the loss of one of our own. We dedicate a Flower from the Forest in memory of Danise.



Danise Michele Young— October 7, 1972, June 14, 2021— The wife of Scott Young , a snare drummer in our band. She was a mother, a daughter, a sister, and a friend to many she touched in her short life. Danise served on First Coast Highlanders Board of Directors as Secretary. Danise loved and was loved by all. She supported this band by attending each of our events with support and enthusiasm. She grew up with and had a love for Winnie the Pooh. Like Christopher Robin, deep in the hundred acre woods, you will find the enchanted neighborhood with a donkey a Kanga and little Roo. There is a rabbit and piglet along with the wise Owl. But most of all there was Winnie the Pooh, tubby little cubby all stuffed with fluff. Willy nilly silly old bear, Winnie the Pooh.

If tears could build a stairway and heartache makes a lane, I'd walk the path to heaven and bring you back again. Our family chain is broken, and nothing seems the same. But as God calls us one by one. The chain will link again. *"Poem by Vicky Holder"*

"Flowers of the Forest" is a Scottish slow air played by many for the fallen soldiers of great wars. Danise you have fought a great war to sustain your life. This Scottish tune is dedicated to your memory. You will be missed. May God receive you and comfort us all in our loss.



BAND CAMP Report



Pipers Robert Simpson, Brooklynn Harrell and Nikki Herbst attended The North American Academy of Piping and Drumming (NAAPD) at Valle Cruses, NC. Brooklynn's Dad, Matthew, was also present to supervise, insuring we attended all our classes. Brooklynn and I attend three classes a day for four days of intense bagpipe education. Our instructors were Jim Dellahey, Cameron Nixon, Bobby Mitchell, and Nick Hudson. Amazingly, just about the time you think you know everything about piping, instructors prove you wrong. We both became sponges absorbing all we could in the short period of time to become better pipers. Brooklynn and her dad stayed in the main building, and I was in the Farmhouse. Every place we went, either for lessons, chow, or back to our rooms to do our assigned homework, we walked up or down a hill. By the end of the week, it felt as though we had walked a mountain. At the Thursday evening Scottish Ceilidh, Brooklynn played her clarinet. Nicely done Brooklynn. Overall, the week was very educational and entertaining for Brooklynn, me and all the students in attendance. We met new friends and I ran into an ole Navy buddy from years past, also playing the bagpipes. Need to mention, even though Matthew, a drumming student for FCH, was not a student during this week, did put on his drum and provided the mass band circle, on Wednesday the much needed steady rhythm keeping us all together, Thanks Matthew, Great Job.



The Instructors



Scottish History *Witch Hunting*

The Scots embraced the sport of witch hunting, burning, hanging, and drowning more whole heartedly than other parts of the British Isles. This may have a lot to do with King James witchcraft, even writing a book on the subject.

The whole craze really kicked off with the North Berwick Witch Trials in 1591. The witches of North Berwick tried to drown the King of the Firth of Forth. James was in Denmark picking up his wife, Ann of Denmark. His return to Scotland was postponed repeatedly by bad weather.



Eventually they made the crossing only to be assaulted by a violent storm while within sight of home. They just made it to harbor.

It turned out that a party of witches had gathered in North Berwick. They had a cat which they 'christened' James, and passed it back and forth over the flames of a fire. They set sail to intercept the king's ship in sieves, and were able to listen to conversations on board the vessel. They threw the cat into the sea conjuring the tempest which nearly sank the king.

Now this might seem strange, but the fact is that this was presented as evidence in a Scottish court. James paid close attention to the whole affair. He did, after all, know a thing or two about the subject. He had during his recent visit to Denmark spent time with renowned witchcraft expert Peter Munk. Thoughts of the things he had learned were fresh in his mind when that storm hit.

Gillis Duncan, a serving girl from Tranent, who had a small reputation as a healer with some knowledge of herbs, was arrested. Under extreme torture she started naming names: Agnes Sampson, an old lady from Haddington; Agnes Tompson of Edinburgh; Dr Fian, a schoolteacher from Saltpans; George Mott's wife; Robert Grierson, a skipper; and Jannet Blandilands. There was more torture and more names emerged. By the end of a two-year trial over seventy people had been implicated.

Strangely, the one suspect who might have been guilty of conspiring against the king was the one who got away: Francis Stewart, 5th Earl of Bothwell. He had already been found guilty of conspiring to seize James (his first cousin) at Holyroodhouse two years earlier.



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The Hand of Glory

The "Hand of Glory" Is the hand cut from a hanged man on the gibbet. Bothwell was accused of bursting open the door to North Berwick church using a "Hand of Glory". When the fingers are lit, like a five-pointed candle, it becomes a powerful magical weapon.

WW1 Pipers

It has been read that over a thousand Scottish pipers were killed in WW1 as they went over the top to pipe their comrades into battle.



One WW1 piper said: "I just played whatever came into my head, but I was worried about tripping on the uneven ground which interrupted my playing. The enemy fire was murderous; the men were falling all around me. I was lucky to survive. Hearing the pipes gave the troops courage." The image is of Daniel Logan Laidlaw VC (26 July 1875 – 2 June 1950), nicknamed "The Piper of Loos".

He was a Scottish soldier and recipient of the Victoria Cross for his actions during the Battle of Loos in WW1, for most conspicuous bravery prior to an assault on German trenches near Loos and Hill 70 on 25th of September 1915.

During the worst of the bombardment when the attack was about to commence, Piper Laidlaw saw that his company was somewhat shaken from the effects of gas. With absolute coolness and disregard of danger he mounted the parapet and marched up and down playing the company out of the trench. The effect of his incredible courage was immediate, and the company dashed out to the assault. Piper Laidlaw continued playing his pipes until he was wounded.

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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, 2022, and we are a 501 C (3) non-profit charitable organization, and all donations are tax deductible.

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