

BELL~A~PEAL

Official Publication of Clan Bell International
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Fall 2004

JOHN BELL, LL.D., BISHOP OF WORCESTER, d. 1556

By Richard R.L. Bell esq. ⁽¹⁾

Dedicated to my living Grandfather(s) Dr. Robert E. Schaffer and Arnold E. Stowe and to honor the memory of Louis Augustus Bell II (1916-1997) together with his brothers Edward G. Bell (1918-2000) and William S. Bell (1920-1977)

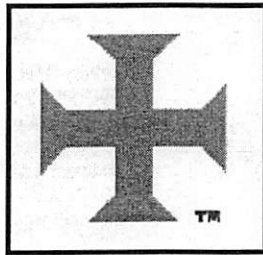
In the year 1252 during the reign of King Henry III the 'Law' was divided. 'The two systems of cannon and common law would develop and remain separate thereafter'... ⁽²⁾

Within the county of Worcestershire England one may find that Hartlebury Castle and the manor of Belne Broughton, Kingsnorton are located in proximity to each other. Histories surrounding these two estates directly tie to the surname Bell. The reign of King Edward I brought about significant progress in both Government and law. In 1282 when Edward I levied Men-At-Arms at Hartlebury from the bishop by feudal right, ⁽³⁾ thereby securing the reinforcement necessary to suppress the Welsh and unite the *Brittani* under his authority. In 1306 Robert de Bruce began his rule and was crowned King of Scotland. The same year, nearing the end of his reign, King Edward I knighted Hugh Bell who is recorded in list of Knights as *Hugo filius Henrici* together with his brother *Aungerus filius Henrici*. In consideration of his valiant service, Hugo was awarded the manor of Belne Broughton and was granted arms *Blackgrieve and Bell's* which are the first representation of Bell arms known to exist. Hugo selected the Blackgrieve to commemorate that his honors came through his signal service to the King, as he was chief of the Longbowmen and put the longbow on the map as an arm of offence and defense for the English Army. The three church bells were in honor of his grandfather, Henry Bell of Ascham, who was connected to the convent and priory. The Blackgrieve was bent and possibly represents a chevron to signify that the bow was 'always ready to defend the King'. ⁽⁴⁾ Generations later this legacy and the embodiment of these arms would be personified into the character of a man who was a native of Worcestershire.

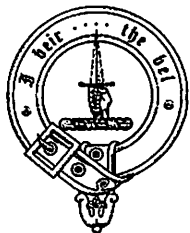
The advent of movable type during the renaissance and its further innovation by Gutenberg, Faust, and Peter Schoffer, who were printing in Mainz, Germany, around 1446, marked the genesis of an era, which saw the liberation of the human mind of the Middle Ages. One of the first fruits of the press became realized by the printing of the Holy Bible as translated by William Tyndall and other scholars. This knowledge was sowed by circulation throughout Europe and today's United Kingdom, thus nurturing the spirit that would help pour the foundation of heart, mind and conscience that would support the great religious and political changes reaped in the sixteenth century and beyond. The following is a brief account of a man who lived through these times. He was a Master of Knights, of Counsel to the King, Ecclesiastic ambassador of Faith and a pillar of England before and during the Reformation.

John Bell LL.D was a native of Worcestershire and is possibly a descendant of Richard Bell Bishop of Carlisle 1478 until his death in (1496), which is the date found on his tomb inscribed on the most fascinating brass inlay. He was educated at Balliol College, Oxford, and Cambridge where he took the degree of LL.B in 1504. He was a learned theologian, and in 1512 he may have accompanied Sylvester Gygles to the Fifth Lateran Council for afterwards it is found that Bell, in 1517, was a lay judge assisting the Archbishop in the courts of Canterbury who at the time were one of two governing bodies that had jurisdiction over publication. ⁽⁵⁾ He was recommended by Gygles, then the bishop of Worcester to Rome, in the following correspondence, for appointment to Master of the English Hospital. The Knights of Rhodes were the order of St. John of Jerusalem, also known as the Knights Hospitallers, the religious and military knights who cared for the sick and pledged to support the cause of Christianity to the last drop of blood. ⁽⁵⁾⁽⁶⁾ To Andreas Ammonius, Latin Secretary to Henry VIII, "Thomas Coleman, Master of the English Hospital, is dead. There are no persons fit to succeed him. The Bishop of Leghlin is an idle voluptuary, Penent is a fool, John Grigh (dull), and the Suffragan of London unfit from his ignorance of the language. Thinks Master Bell, now Dean of the Arches, a more suitable person." ⁽⁷⁾

From this appointment Bell became 'The Reverend and Valiant Head of the house of England,' ⁽²⁾ one of eight divisions of one of the two greatest crusading orders. ⁽²⁾ The Knights Hospitallers together with King Arthur and the Knights Templars are the basis for the legends of the Holy Grail and the Shroud of Turin. The founding of the Knights Templars date from the 12th century when, on Christmas day 1119, nine Knights took monastic vows, styling themselves the poor fellow soldiers of Jesus Christ. ⁽²⁾ Quartered in the Temple of Solomon they became known as the Knights of the Temple of Solomon ⁽³⁾. In London, effigies still lie in the Temple Church that was built by the Templars in the 13th century, which served as the English headquarters for their semi-monastic order. The new temple, as it was called, became an Inn of Court and evolved into the independent enclave of law known as the *Middle Temple* deriving its' name from the Knights Templars. ⁽²⁾ The origin of the Inn traced from two roots: the occupation of the Knights and the replacement of priestly lawyers by a lay profession. ⁽²⁾ Developing connections with the King's administration, particularly with the Exchequer, the Inn climbed in status and



Cont. on page 5



BELL~A~PEAL

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The Bealls of Maryland

Part 2 - Ninian Beall – From Dunbar to Georgetown

by Ward L. Ginn, Jr., FSA Scot

Tens of thousands of people, some members today of CBI, are descendants of colonial Maryland families named Beall. These families were major contributors in the development of the colony of Maryland and later the United States of America.

Within the shadow span of the Washington Monument, there stands on the 15th Street side of the Ellipse another, but much smaller obelisk erected in 1936 by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Colonists to honor the 18 original owners or patentees of the land that makes up modern day Washington. The best known of these seventeenth century landowners is Ninian Beall, a tall redheaded Scot who was brought to America as a prisoner of the English to fulfill a sentence of servitude in the colonies.

Ninian Beall was born in Largo, Scotland in 1625. His father, James, was a physician and possibly an uncle of Alexander Bell, the immigrant. One tradition has it that he was named after Saint Ninian (pronounced Ringen). Early provincial records show in several instances that his name was either registered as "Ringan" or "Ringing Bell" or marked with the initials of "R B." According to some accounts, Ninian married an Elizabeth Gordon from his hometown of Largo. There are accounts that they had two sons, John and Thomas, born sometime after 1646. But by other accounts, they may have had three daughters. Elizabeth Gordon likely died in Scotland as there are no records or accounts of her in America. Whether any of the children from this marriage immigrated to America is a matter of speculation.

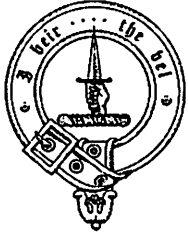
At the age of twenty-five, Beall, a commissioned cornet, fought under the banner of David Leslie whose troops were routed by Cromwell in 1650 at the Battle of Dunbar. Beall was fortunate to survive the battle only to be taken prisoner by the English and later transported to the colonies. His whereabouts and activities from 1650 onward for the next seventeen years, however, is still somewhat a mystery. Most sources believe he served his term as a prisoner in the

Barbados. Others think that his servitude was spent in Ireland. Wherever he may have served, early land records reveal that he arrived in Maryland around 1658 when a Richard Hall claimed 50 acres for having transported "Ringing" (Ringan) Beall into the province. Ninian Beall's servitude as a prisoner of war must have thus lasted seven years. Records show that when released, he then indentured himself to Richard Hall for transportation to the American colonies and faithfully completed a second term of servitude of five years for which, in 1667, he received for his service 50 acres of land. From these humble beginnings, Ninian Beall was to live out a long and prosperous life in which he gained great wealth as a plantation owner and fame as both a soldier and prominent public figure.

Regrettably, records that would illuminate more clearly Beall's family life in America were lost when the Calvert County Courthouse was destroyed by fire. Court papers that did survive the fire, however, indicate that by 1669 Beall was a married man. Although documentation is lacking, it is thought that his wife was Ruth Moore, daughter of Richard Moore, a planter and barrister in St. Mary's County. It is further believed that from this marriage were produced nine children whose descendants today number in the tens of thousands.

By virtually all standards, Ninian Beall was a big man. At a time when the average man did not live beyond the age of 35 years and was no taller than 5 feet, 6 inches, the red haired Beall lived to the age of 92 and stood at an imposing height of 6 feet, 7 inches. This giant of a man was also big in accomplishments. Highly successful in virtually every business venture he took on, Beall at one time or another during his long life was a land speculator,

(cont. on page 5)



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The Bealls of Maryland

Part 1 (An Overview)

By Ward L. Ginn, Jr.

Tens of thousands of people, some members today of CBI, are descendants of colonial Maryland families named Beall. These families were major contributors in the development of the colony of Maryland and later the United States of America.

We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to our immigrant ancestors who had the courage to come to these shores from Scotland to start anew lives that for various reasons held little promise of betterment in the mother country. These were good, god-fearing and hard working people who tamed the American wilderness in the locales in which they settled and thus started the process of nation building. These early immigrants grew large families, all the better to provide the peoplepower necessary to clear the woodlands, till the soil, build towns and roads and raise a militia to assure order and provide for the common defense. One of the most prominent and influential of these families were the Bealls who were granted lands in the colony of Maryland.

The first of the Maryland Bealls immigrated from Scotland during the later half of the 17th century. They were five in number: Ninian, Alexander, Thomas, James and Robert. Early records indicate that their original surnames were spelled Bell before they changed the spelling to Beall. Why the name was later altered with the addition of the vowel "a" is a question which will probably never be fully explained, but we can surmise that when spoken, it sounded more like "beel" or "bee-all" instead of Bell. So phonetics seemed to have won out and the name was perhaps spelled like it sounded at the time. Notwithstanding its spelling, however, the name Beall today is pronounced as "Bell" in Maryland and many other places in the country.

Early records show that in addition to the Bealls, there were other Colonial families named Bell, Beale, Beal, Bale, etc. Research into the origins and genealogies of these families fail to show to date any connection to the Maryland Bealls. A contemporary researcher and CBI member, Charles Beal, is seeking through DNA analysis to establish such connection of these families and "Old World" families of the same surnames with the Maryland Beall families and their descendants.

Comparatively, the genealogies of the various Maryland Beall families have been widely researched and published,

providing descendants a plethora of information in their search for family roots. It is arguable, however, whether this abundance of information is a boon or a bane. Some genealogies are well researched and are accurate while others are replete with errors, often leading researchers astray. According to researcher Elise Greenup Jourdan, partially responsible for the inaccuracies found in their genealogies is that the Bealls "lived long lives, had large families and used the same given names generation after generation."

Using postcards to collect data, Fielder M. M. Beall in the 1920s compiled and published the first comprehensive genealogy of the Bealls, entitled *Colonial Families of the United States Descended from the Immigrants Bell, Beal, Bale, Beale and Beall*. Criticized over the years for its many inaccuracies, Fielder Beall's tome has nonetheless subsequently inspired more reliable, accurate research. Since 1991, William Ryland Beall, III and Robert Clair Beall of Portland, Oregon have edited and published through their *Beall Genealogical News* more than 700 pages of genealogical data with the object of sorting out and correcting past inaccuracies in the records of the variously spelled Bells.

The Beall Family Association's 1999 publication, *Descendants of Alexander Beall (1649 - c1744) Immigrant to Maryland* provides a compilation of genealogical data by Roberta Hull aimed at correcting past inaccuracies in the genealogical research of this particular family line. Published in 1998, Elise Greenup Jourdan's *Early Families of Southern Maryland Volume 6* offers researchers accurate genealogies of each of the Colonial Maryland Beall families.

Ninian and Alexander Beall are better known than the other Beall immigrants to Maryland, and therefore, more has been written about the two and their descendants. Future issues of *Bell~A~Peal* will draw on this written material to familiarize readers with their roles and those of their descendants in the colonial development of America.

The Bealls of Maryland were perhaps American's first great family dynasty. Long before popular surnames like Adams, Roosevelt, Kennedy, and now Bush dominated the political landscape, the Bealls held huge tracts of real estate, fought Indians, built mansions, and provided the colony with leadership and stability. Because the family never provided a president, a Supreme Court justice, or a Wild West explorer, the Bealls' legacy is not widely known.

Robert Kyle
Weschler's, Washington, D.C.



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Winter 2003

BELLS UNITE

by William H. Bell

After several months of discussion, we are pleased to announce that The Clan Bell Society of Scotland has consented to join in cooperation with Clan Bell International, and the 17 countries that have their own Bell representation, in our quest to have a Chief of the Bells appointed by the Lyon Court.

It has been decided to request an individual who is an expert in Lyon Court procedure to present our case to the Lord Lyon and gain his approval to appoint a "Cean-cath" or Commander of the Clan. The method to choose the Commander would in all probability be an Ad-hoc Gilfine, which needs only five Scottish tenants to vote on the Commander selection.

We had approval for a Gilfine in 1988, but this was cancelled by Lyon as our genealogist James Thompson had found living Blackethouse Bells. This "find" resulted in Douglas Bell, CBE, being specified as our Chief Apparent with the petition formally begun in 1990.

No doubt you are aware that an effort has been underway for the past 13 years to prepare the necessary petition, with proofs, to obtain from the Lyon Court authorization to reestablish Clan Bell under a duly appointed Chief. Regrettably, that effort has not reached fruition, and it extremely doubtful that it ever will. Further, we have no idea as to the status of the petition, and are thus placed in the position where we must now take control of the situation. We have chosen, therefore, to act on this matter jointly, the initial step being to seek Commander of the Clan approval.

Further to the seeking of a Commander of the Clan is the decision to also seek approval to appoint "Ceann-tighes" or Chieftains. These are next in line to the Cean-cath. The title Chieftan has been used synonymously for that of 'chief' and that until recent times there was no practical difference. Chieftains are heads of Gilfine branches of the Clan (i.e. sub house within the Clan). Under a Chief or Commander of the Clan, Chieftains would today, in all probability, be responsible for their own

(Continued on page 4)

2003 "CLAN BELL" GATHERING October 9 - 12, 2003

MINUTES OF BUSINESS MEETING

In the absence of the President, Vice President and Secretary, the Clan Bell meeting was called to order by the Treasurer, Dorothy (Dot) Stevenson, at the Daytona Surfside Inn and Suites, Daytona Beach, FL., at 9:10 A.M. on Saturday, October 11, 2003.

Dot recognized Frieda Shoemake for all the time and effort she has put into making this Gathering such a success. Volunteers are needed near the center of the country to host a Gathering. Dot also recognized Jim & Fran Bell from Arizona and David G. & Astrid Bell from Canada as having come the farthest. Grace Rogers was also recognized in honor of her recent 90th birthday.

Copies of the financial report from the Treasurer were handed out. The question was asked about what the dues were used for and it was explained that some of the money went to fund the various games, the website, Genealogical research, and ads in publications. According to AJ Ginn, the catalog sales pay for the newsletter.

Reports were given from the Norway representative who has answered questions from descendants, Alford Smart in California and Allen Bell in Georgia.

AJ Ginn recommends changes in the interaction of AJ and Dot. She wishes to make direct deposits of any money that is sent to her, sending Dot an itemized account of each deposit in order that the records be kept accurately. In the past this has been done in the reverse but either way works equally well.

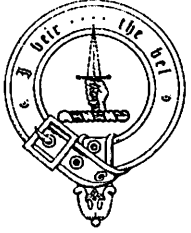
Larry Bell in Chattanooga needs a permanent home for three large boxes of hard data for the database as he does not have room for them. He proposes that we modify the rules to allow the publishing of data concerning individuals of at least 75 years of age or deceased. Also, in case Clan Bell has not captured the data from Clan Bell Descendants, electronic copies (if available) could be easily imported into the CBI database.

Charles E. Bell suggests anyone contact him if they are interested in the DNA project.

Questions were raised about various subjects as follows:

(Continued on page 5)

DNA-6



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Spring 2003

We have a New Name that Better Represents our Vision:

Clan Bell International

Our association's name since its founding, The Bell Family Association of the United States (BFA), has been recently changed to Clan Bell International (CBI). If we later incorporate, the organizational name will again be changed to Clan Bell International, Inc.

In January, the name change proposal was brought before the Clan Bell's International Representatives for their thoughts. All agreed to the name change. The proposal then was brought before the Board of Directors who in February voted unanimously for the name change.

Our new name better fits the long time vision of our president, William H. Bell, to unite Bells on a global basis under the aegis of a singular organization promoting the family's common heritage and genealogy. To this end, Bill has worked diligently to recruit Bells interested in representing the family in their countries of origin and residence.

With new representatives for England and India, CBI is currently represented in 16 countries. Representing Clan Bell in England is Steven Bell. His place of residence is 50 Wilton Avenue, Walker, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE6 2TT. Steven's phone number is 01912762973 and email address is steven@bell6709.freeserve.co.uk. Steven claims that his local library contains a wealth of knowledge concerning the surname of Bell. At the job for only a week, Steve is already hard at work helping a Canadian find his Bell family roots in England.

CBI is represented in India by Noreen Lavender whose address is 1 Sandrigham Gardens, Ellesmere Port CH65 9EY, UK. (email: noreen.lavender@ntlworld.com). Noreen has traced her Bell heritage as far back as Alexander Bell around 1790. Most of Noreen's Bell ancestors served in the military, including her grandfather who retired from the Royal Engineers to become Postmaster General at what at that time was the world's largest post office in Mumbai. Noreen urges all Bell males to take part in the DNA program whose results will help confirm bloodlines.

CBI is most appreciative of the efforts of its representatives in making Clan Bell a unified global family.

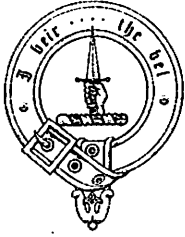
BEALL GENEALOGICAL NEWS Celebrates 13th Year of Publication

In addition to CBI, the rich heritage of the family Bell with its various spellings is promoted in the United States by the Beall Family Association (BFA) based in Portland, Oregon. The surname "Beall" is pronounced as "Bell" in many parts of the United States, including Maryland where Bells migrated to from Scotland during the colonial period, and for whatever reason, changed the spelling of their name to "Beall."

The Beall Family Association, P.O. Box 33918, Portland, Oregon 97292-3918, publishes *Beall Genealogical News* (formerly the *Beall News*) which is undoubtedly the most comprehensive and accurate compilation of genealogy ever collected in one place for the family with the various surnames of Beall, Beale, Bale, Beall, Bell, etc. With its latest issue published under the capable direction of Robert Clair Beall, Publisher and William Ryland Beall, Editor, the BFA has published in the past 12 plus years more than 700 pages of genealogical data and information for the newsletter's 200-300 subscribers.

For the first 10 years of publication, *Beall Genealogical News* was published four times a year. Beginning in 1991, the newsletter became a semiannual publication with each issue jam-packed with an average 20 pages of genealogical information, including photo copies of rare primary documents, news articles, letters, etc. A subscription to *Beall Genealogical News* is an absolute must for any serious researcher of the genealogy of the families Beall, etc. Moreover, a complete collection of all the past issues of the newsletter is a must addition to the library of any serious genealogical researcher of the families Beall, etc. For an annual subscription to *Beall Genealogical News*, please

(Continued on page 5)



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Summer 2003

ASK NOT WHAT YOUR CLAN CAN DO FOR YOU ASK WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR CLAN

by

Kathleen Ferguson Kane, edited by: Mary Dumas

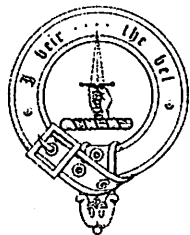
- Many complain because their clans do not set up parties or meetings for the local clan members...
Would YOU consider contacting the clan members in your area and arranging a get together?
- Many complain because their clan is not represented at some of the multitude of Celtic events they can attend...
Would YOU consider offering to be a convener at those particular events?
- Many seem to enjoy the various festivals and games where they can visit the clan tent, thanks to the hard work of those few who man the tent...
Would YOU consider finding out what you could do to help, and then help?
- Many watch those who set up and tear down their tents...
Would YOU consider giving them a helping hand?
- Many notice that those who man the tent are often busy that they don't get away for lunch...
Would YOU consider offering to go get it for them?
- Many enjoy the fact that these events are put on so you can live your heritage...
Would YOU consider being a representative for your clan to the organization that puts on these events?
- Many get a clan newsletter filled with interesting articles...
Would YOU consider sending in an article about your family, history, or local events involving persons who carry the names of your clan?
- Many have a special skill that would be helpful to the clan such as sewing, accounting, website building, secretarial skills...
Would YOU consider contacting the clan leader in your area and offering your special help?
- Many do research on their ancestry and find information that does not apply to your family, but may be helpful to another clan member...
Would YOU consider sending the clan genealogist that information along with your family history?
- Many of us within the clan are not blood related, we are an extended family...
Would YOU consider contributing your time, talents and energy to our extended family?

If you have said YES to any of these questions, please contact your Clan Bell representative and let them know what you want to do. This is your extended family, and we need all our members to make this the best family on the block!

Many of you may not know who to contact...

Would YOU be excited to learn that everyone is listed on page 2 of this newsletter?

*Source: The above material was taken from **By Land -California Reports**, a newsletter of Clan MacDonald. The article is a reprint from **Voice of the Highlands**, the magazine of the Highlands, Inc. The last two paragraphs of the article have been slightly reworded to make it relevant to Clan Bell.*



BELL~A~PEAL

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October - December 2002

ITS TIME FOR A GATHERING

by Ward L. Ginn, Jr, Vice President

It has been five years since the BFA had its last Gathering in Orlando, Florida in 1967. And during this time several things have happened that make a Gathering necessary, if not vital to the future of the organization.

Due to the petition situation which has gone nowhere, we have purposely neglected to hold Gatherings since the last one in Orlando. About 60 percent of our active members today have joined the BFA during those five years in which we did not hold gatherings. In the spirit of promoting sense of family, a Gathering this Fall would provide the opportunity for these new members to meet their "cousins." Fellowship is critical to our Association's well being because, as BFA President Bell recently commented, "...an organization founded on personal friendships, with all of one mind and working together for the betterment of the whole, is bound to be stronger of purpose."

According to the first *Bell~A~Peal* published more than 15 years ago, the sole purpose for creating the BFA was to provide the operational base for the reestablishment of Clan Bell with the view that when that goal was achieved, the Association would be phased out to be replaced by a new organization run by the chief. Twelve years have passed with the promise of reestablishment unfulfilled. We can no longer afford to neglect business here at home waiting for something to happen that we have little, if any, control over. We are no longer an operational base to be phased out "when the time comes." The waiting must end and we must now choose our own future, not one thrust upon us. A Gathering would provide the forum within which we can make the choices critical to that future.

The Bell Family Association was founded in Florida so it is fitting that our next Gathering is planned to be held there October 9-12 in Daytona. Frieda Shoemake, Commissioner for Florida, is making the necessary arrangements for the proposed Gathering and the preliminary plans she has made are set forth in on page 4 of this newsletter.

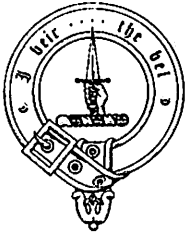
The BFA has about eight months to develop a business agenda for the proposed October Gathering. Development of specific agenda items will be reported in the next two newsletters. This agenda ideally should

confine itself to those organizational pursuits and programs that the members would like to see in place plus those that will make the BFA run more smoothly. Consideration is being given to change our status under Section 501 C(3) of the Internal Revenue Code to be designated as a tax exempt organization. The relative costs and benefits of tax exempt status will be discussed in the next newsletter.

As to our future involvement with the reestablishment process, BFA President Bill Bell outlined several courses of action for which he sought comment in the last newsletter. Regrettably, members were given an impossible deadline for presenting their thoughts in a timely manner. Therefore, those same courses of action are once again offered for comment: (1) maintain the status quo — continue with our current programs and support the Petitioner from the sidelines; (2) disassociate ourselves entirely from the petition situation which is doomed to either failure of submission or a continued lengthy wait for completion; (3) focus on genealogy and Scottish heritage and operate strictly as a newsletter organization; and (4) become involved in the search for an eligible Bell for whom to complete and submit a petition to the Lyon Court to be Chief of the Bells.

Members are once again requested to specify to the Board of Directors the above courses of action they believe should be pursued. Any other thoughts members may have about what the Association should become are likewise solicited. Please take the time to write or email a letter to either William H. Bell, 2322 Shadow Hill Drive, Riverside, CA 92506-3462, wbell7@aol.com, or Ward L. Ginn, 12147 Holly Knoll Circle, Great Falls, VA 22066, wginn@cox.net. Your input can be as long or short as you want. Please send your thoughts to reach us no later than March 30 so that we can report back to members in the early April newsletter a summation of sentiments expressed.

Please read carefully the Gathering Notice on page 4 of the newsletter and contact Freida Shoemake by May 1 if you are interested in attending this most important Gathering. Members are encouraged to attend this Gathering to take an active part in the decision making that will take place there to determine the future course of the organization. The BFA has reached an important crossroads in its relatively short history and the upcoming Gathering will be its most important since its first one in Jacksonville. Hope to see you there in October.



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July-September, 2002

IN SEARCH OF "THE LITTLE IRON MAN"

by Ward L. Ginn, Jr.

He was a gallant warrior in the Indian Wars and a hero of the Revolutionary War, rising to the rank of Brigadier General. His name was Rezin Beall, and with the identical name, he is often confused with another General Rezin Beall who was likewise a hero, but in the War of 1812.

There are two stories to be told here about General Rezin Beall. One is about the General, his genealogy, military career, and the circumstances under which he earned the nickname "The Little Iron Man." The other is about the successful search for his gravesite which many of his descendants previously believed was "lost."

"The Little Iron Man"

Rezin Beall was born around 1723, the son of William Beall, who, in turn, was the son of Thomas Beall, one of the five Bealls who immigrated from Scotland to Maryland in the late 1660s. For whatever reason, these immigrants were all named Bell, but changed the spelling of their names to Beall (although the pronunciation remained Bell as in ringing bell). Rezin's first wife, Amelia Beall, was the great granddaughter of Ninian Beall, the immigrant who gained fame for commanding the militia in Maryland, founding the Presbyterian Church in America and having vast land holdings, including the land on which the White House stands today.

Little is known of Rezin Beall's private life. His first wife, Amelia, was his cousin. It is said that he was an excellent violinist. Contemporary accounts of his life tell that he was a controversial character.

He is best known as a soldier and hero. He started his military career by enlisting as a private in Captain Ware's Company in the French and Indian War of 1757-8. Beall was later commissioned in Ware's unit as a Second Lieutenant. On January 2, 1776, Beall was commissioned Captain of the First Independent Company of the Maryland Regulars.

Six months later on July 17, 1776, Captain Beall was wounded in an engagement with British ships at St. Georges in St. Mary's County, Maryland. Two days later, on July 19, he was wounded again while engaged with British ships on the St. Charles River.

An account of Captain Beall's heroism is provided by Lieut.-Colonel Fielder M.M. Beall in his anthology of Beall genealogy *Colonial Families of the United States Descended from the Emmigrants Bell, Beal, Bale, Beale and Beall*:

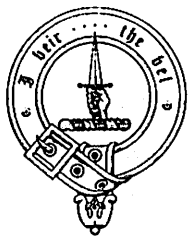
"Captain Beall's outlook had warned him before dawn of the arriving ships. He deployed his 100 men in a thin line along the coast in the bushes opposite the ships, with orders that if the enemy tried to come ashore they would not fire until their boats were 25 yards from the shore. Each ship filled a boat with armed men and were soon moving toward the shore. The firing of Captain Rezin's men was such a surprise that the boats were thrown into confusion, and many of Captain Beall's men got in a second shot before their fire was returned by the British.

The enemy did not attempt to land, but returned to their ships and indulged in vigorous big-gun fire. This fire killed and wounded a number of men, wounding Captain Beall in the hip.

This remarkable act of repulsing 80 enemy sail with 100 men prompted Captain Beall's friends to confer on him the title of The Little Iron Man."

The success of this action was not overlooked. At Annapolis, on August 23, 1776, Captain Rezin Beall was commissioned Brigadier General by the Council of Safety. Two weeks later on September 6, 1776, General Beall's Brigade of the Maryland Flying Camp distinguished themselves at the Battle of Harlem. Two weeks later on September 21, 1776, General Beall's Brigade, consisting of four regiments, displayed "great nerve and steadiness" at the Battle of White Plains.

(Continued on page 4)



BELL~A~PEAL

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April-June, 2002

The Border And The Bells

by Ward L. Ginn, Jr.

For readers who are not familiar with its geography, Scotland is divided into three regions: the Highlands with its 800 islands, the Central Lowlands (Central Scotland) and the Southern Uplands (also called Southern Scotland). [see map to the right] The latter two regions, together, are often referred to as the "Lowlands."

In this day and age, Bells from all over the world can proudly trace their roots to each of these three regions. While there are no known demographic studies that accurately pin-point the distribution of Bell families in Scotland or their patterns of migration, it is known that a large population of Bells lived in the central Uplands (Southern Scotland) in the 1100s or possibly earlier with the largest concentration of families residing along the Anglo-Scottish Border in the geographic area now called Dumfriesshire and Galloway (formerly the separate counties of Dumfriesshire, Kirkcudbrightshire and Wigtownshire). In the eastern part of Dumfriesshire and Galloway, just a few miles southeast of Lockerbie is a forty square mile church district called Middlebie Parish. At one time more than thirty major Bell families and their numerous sub-families inhabited the parish. There is an old Scottish saying, "As numerous as the Bells of Middlebie." These families were close knit and rallied around a chief who was the central authority on all clan matters of consequence. The ancestral headquarters of the Chief of the Bells was Blackethouse. In later years grew the nearby village of Eaglesfield. Today, all that remains of the Bell redoubt high above the Kirtle River is a stone stair tower and a partial eastern wall. The walls were still standing until approximately the 1950s, but collapsed as a result of weathering.

The Borderland between Scotland and England runs northeasterly along the Cheviot Hills for nearly a hundred miles from the Solway Firth to Berwick-on-Tweed. This region has a rich and colorful history having been the buffer zone between Scotland and England that for over 700 years, until after 1745, had never had fifty consecutive years of peace. It was a



virtual battle ground, displaying all of the characteristics of a frontier; lawlessness prevailed with reiving (reiving is the act of robbing and plundering) becoming a way of life. The Reiver came from every social class, most being ordinary people eking out an existence in a never ending struggle for survival in a land bereft of the resources needed to feed and support a family. He was a skilled horseman and guerrilla soldier who out of necessity resorted to arson, kidnapping, extortion, rustling, marauding and plundering. The term "Blackmail" was coined during this period. Loyalties among the Borderers was tribal, and the Bells were one of the most famous names among the reiving families or clans. A state of virtual anarchy prevailed on both sides of the border, a situation that was of growing concern to the ruling powers of both countries.

Recognizing that lawlessness and disorder was out of control, the governments of Scotland and England came to an agreement in 1249 called the Laws of the

(Continued on page 4)



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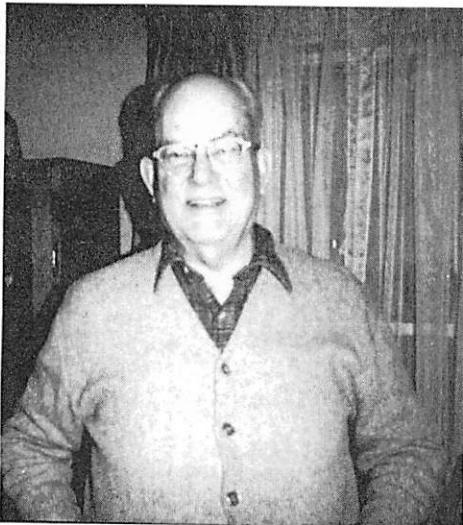
IRVING BELL, CBD FOUNDER, AND OTHER FRIENDS OF CLAN BELL PASS AWAY....

TRIBUTES TO CARL IRVING BELL, DR. GILBERT DOUGLAS, JR. and MAXINE ABLES

by William H. Bell

It is with great sadness that we announce the deaths of these three dear friends of Clan Bell. Each contributed in his or her own way to promote the Bell family in America and its Scottish heritage. All three supported reestablishment of the Clan of the Bells, but regrettably did not live to see it happen. We will miss them.

Tribute to Carl Irving Bell



We were notified about Irving's death by his son, Richard Bell, who wished that former members of CBD be properly advised through the Association's newsletter. Richard kindly furnished a copy of his father's

obituary and a photo of Irving (shown above). The obituary reads as follows:

"Carl Irving Bell, 89, of Elm Hill, died Monday (March 11, 2002) at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H.

He was born June 22, 1912, in Malden, Mass., the son of Otis and Garda (Anderson) Bell. He graduated from Concord (N.H.) High School in 1930 and later attended the University of Wisconsin.

On Sept. 5, 1942, he married Phyllis Hatch in Concord. They made their home in Concord for many years, where he worked as a reporter and later as state editor for the *Concord Monitor-Patriot*, as it was then known. He founded the Pierce Brigade, a fund and project that rescued and restored the family home of President Franklin Pierce. He later wrote a biography of President Pierce.

He and his wife moved to Springfield in 1971, where he operated a book store downtown for several years. For the past 30 years he wrote a weekly column for the *Springfield Reporter*, under the name of Mike Twine.

He was predeceased by his wife in 2000, and by two brothers, Philip and Henry Bell.

Members of his surviving family include a son, Richard Carlton Bell of Canaan, NH and several nieces and nephews."

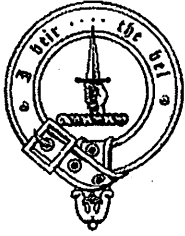
The obituary speaks of the Irving that his fellow townspeople in Springfield, Vermont knew from their daily contact with him. However, they knew little of the Irving Bell we knew, Founder and Director of the International Bell Society/Clan Bell Descendants, the first organization representing Bells nationally within the USA and internationally.

While founding the CBD was a constant source of pride for Irving, his real labor of love was CBD's newsletter *Bell Chimes*, which he edited and published for more than twenty years. He stopped publishing *Bell Chimes* two years ago only because of health problems. Following the merger of CBD with the Bell Family Association last July, Irving wrote several articles for the *Bell~A~Peal*.

Health considerations prevented Irving from taking an active leadership role in the BFA after the merger. I nonetheless had great respect in his administrative skills and knowledge of Clan matters and, therefore, appointed Irving as a personal advisor with the title of Founder Emeritus, Clan Bell Descendants.

Irving Bell was the first to unite Bells on a global scale

(Continued on page 4)



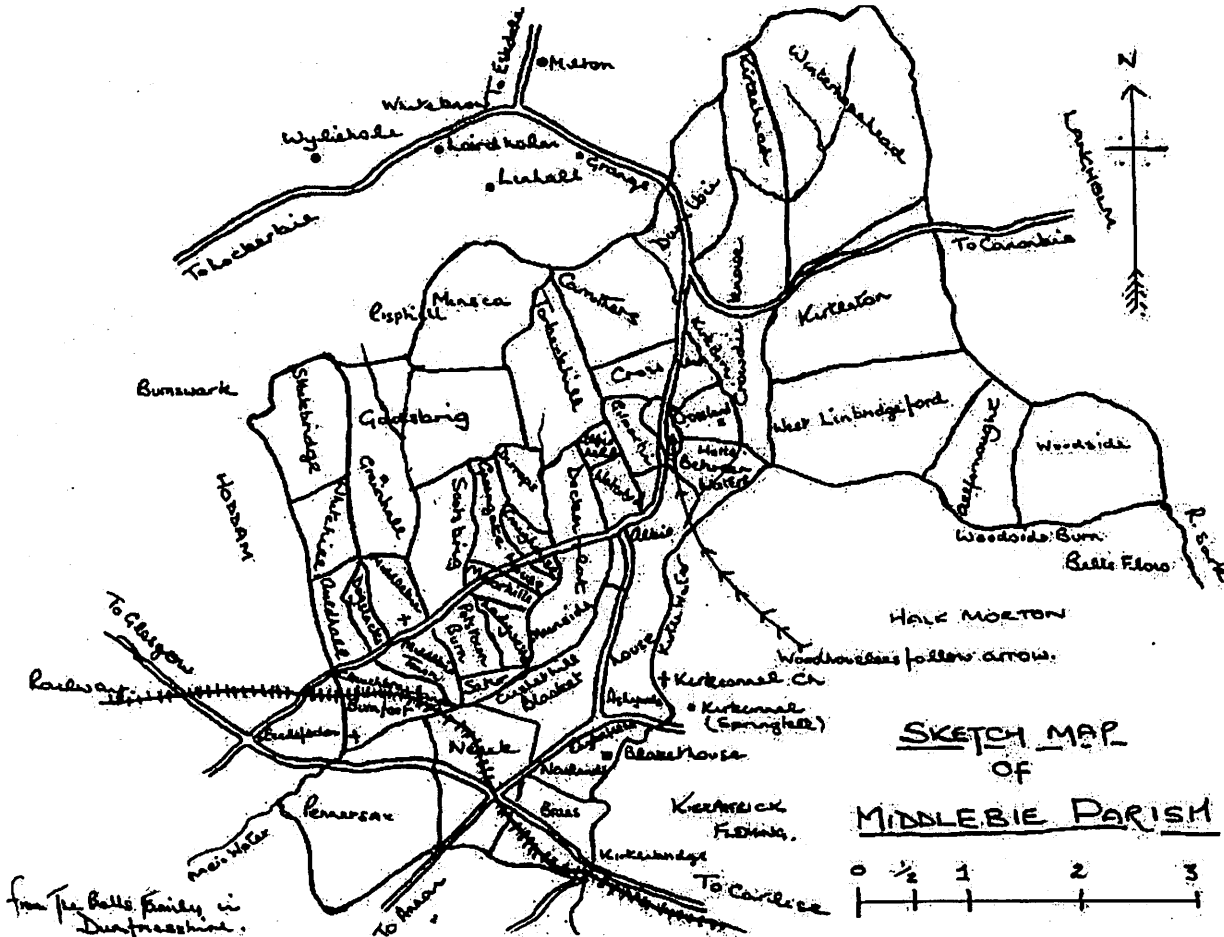
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October - December, 2001



MIDDLEBIE PARISH... HOME OF THE BELLS

Persons with the surname Bell or who descend from someone carrying that proud name can be found today in virtually every part of the world. The family origins of many of them are rooted in a small area of southwest Scotland called Middlebie Parish. In the 1600s, Middlebie Parish encompassed approximately 40,000 acres and was populated by 31 major Bell families. As copied below, the *Statistical Accounts of Scotland of 1845* provides a colorful description of what the parish and its people were like back in the early part of the 19th century.

PARISH OF MIDDLEBIE.

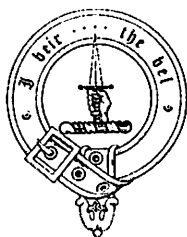
PRESBYTERY OF ANNAN,
SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.

THE REV. RICHARD NIVISON, MINISTER.

I. TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY

Name.— The name of this parish appears to be derived from the Saxon word *bee*, which signifies a station, and is supposed to have reference to one of the finest remains of a Roman camp in the vicinity of the church;— the word *middle* being prefixed in order to distinguish it from two

(Continued on page 3)



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April-July, 2001

MERGER UNITES AMERICAN BELLS - Consolidation of BFA and CBD Makes a Stronger Organization -

For the better part of the past two decades, Bells (no matter the spelling) in America have been represented by two different organizations, the Bell Family Association of the United States (BFA-US), which represents Clan Bell in North America at this time, and Clan Bell Descendants (CBD) a privately founded group.

In mid-July, all of this changed with the merger of the two groups. Sharing the belief that a single organization would better and more effectively serve the interests of American Bells, Irving Bell, Founder of CBD and William Bell, President of the BFA-US at the time of its establishment, agreed to merge the two organizations. Negotiations were simplified as two main objectives were equally held by both groups. First, to have a Chief of the Bells appointed by the Lyon Court in Edinburgh. Second, to expand genealogy capabilities for all spellings of Bell and to create the largest and most accurate genealogical database for Clan Bell members.

Following ratification by the BFA Board of Directors and the Officers and Membership of CBD, the two groups were formally merged on 16 July 2001 by the signing of the Merger Document by both parties. Under the terms of the agreement, CBD is merged into the BFA and no longer exists as a separate and autonomous organization. Given the dissolution of CBD, its newsletter, the Bell Chimes, will no longer be published. All members of CBD who were in good standing on the effective date of the merger are granted full membership privileges in the BFA-US for the remainder of the calendar year 2001. This membership includes subscription to the BFA newsletter Bell-A-Peal. Current subscribers of the Bell Chimes will be receiving this newsletter as their first issue of the Bell-A-Peal.

The transfer of correspondence and newsletter

files to the BFA is now underway and will be completed in the near future. Other administrative matters, such as the transfer and input of genealogical data records into our computer database will take more time to finalize.

Irving Bell founded the International Bell Society in 1980 and for several years it was the only organization in America representing all Bell families, no matter the spelling. In 1984, the name was changed to Clan Bell Descendants. The BFA-US was formed on 4 July 1987 in Jacksonville, Florida and has, by the direction of the Claimant to the Chiefship, been the official Clan Association in the United States since October 1988.

With the merger of the BFA and CBD, American Bells are demonstrating to the Lyon Court our unity and solidarity in support of the Claimant to the Chiefship and our strong backing of the formal petition to the Lyon Court requesting the Lord Lyon to appoint a Chief of the Bells.

William Bell states that "The merger of the BFA and CBD brings together like minded individuals and that now we present a united American Bell Association in support of the future Chief in case of a successful outcome. It is an honor to have Founder Irving Bell, a Bell leader for over twenty years, join with us in our quest for unity and Clan reestablishment. His experience as an administrator and editor for many years will be of great value to our Association. Irving Bell and all members of the Clan Bell Descendants organization are warmly welcomed and encouraged to participate in the many facets of the BFA, especially the Scottish Games where we host Clan Bell tents. I should like to extend my personal greetings to all former CBD members and welcome them into association with their "cousins" in the BFA. Together we will accomplish our mutual objectives!"

5) WAW 18.9.22
17-GED



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January-March, 2001

Beltane

By Ward L. Ginn, Jr.

Editor's Note: There is a long standing belief, albeit not proven, that the origin of the Bell name in Scotland derives from Druid priests who worshiped the Celtic sun god Bel and celebrated the coming of summer with the festival Beltane

Beltane is one of the four major fire festivals during the Celtic year, celebrating the beginning of summer on May 1 (or May Day). Festivities actually begin on the eve of May Day because the Celtic day traditionally starts at sundown. Beltane derives from the Irish Gaelic "Bealtaine" or the Scottish Gaelic "Bealtuinn," meaning "Belfire," the fire of the Celtic god of light (Bel, Beli, Belinus, Belenes). It is a celebration of fertility because with the beginning of summer comes the planting season and the time to put livestock out to pasture.

Depending on time and place, Beltane has been celebrated in a variety of ways throughout the Celtic world. Always figuring prominently in the festivities, however, has been the worship of fire. The custom of kindling bonfires on hilltops on the eve of Beltane is said to have originated with the Druids. In ancient times the tops of hills were chosen by the Druid priests to provide open air vistas of nature's realm as a suitable backdrop and position the ceremonies symbolically closer to the sun, the source of warmth and life giving light.

A typical way of celebrating the beginning of Beltane is a custom practiced for many years in western Perthshire. All of the boys of the township kindle a fire on a hilltop and then bake a cake of oatmeal on the embers. The cake is then divided into as many equal size portions as there are persons in the group. All the oatmeal portions are placed in a bonnet, including a piece that has been daubed with charcoal. Blindfolded, everyone selects a portion of the oatmeal cake. Whoever selects the blackened piece is the



devoted person who is to be "sacrificed" to Baal whose favor is sought for a productive growing season and plentiful harvest. Fortunately, there is no human sacrifice, but the *devoted* person is compelled to leap three times through the flames after which the ceremonies end.

There are other interesting customs as well. In the north-east of Scotland, it was believed that witches would cast spells on cattle and steal their milk. To ward off the witches, the young people would dance around the Beltane bonfire or run through the smoke shouting, "Fire! Blaze and burn the witches; fire! Fire! burn the witches."

In Wales, it was customary to kindle two fires, and it was believed that by leaping thrice over the bonfires or running thrice between them, the celebrants would ensure that the neighboring lands would be protected from sorcery and that there would be a plentiful harvest. Another custom was to drive cattle between the two Bel-fires to ensure a prosperous milk yield.

The custom of lighting a bonfire to start the annual festival of Beltane has survived and is still

(Continued on page 3)

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BELL~A~PEAL

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December, 2000

Memorial to Famous Bells of the 18th Century

by Ward L. Ginn, Jr.

The 18th century witnessed major strides in the fields of medicine, education and the law. Scotland during this time produced some of the world's most renown surgeons, educators and practitioners of the law, and several of them were Bells. Memorialized below are six of these Bells who rose to positions of eminence in their respective fields.

Andrew Bell, D.D. and L.L.D., was born in 1753 in St. Andrews. After completing his studies in mathematics and philosophy at St. Andrews University, he traveled to America where he became the tutor of a plantation family. On returning to Scotland in 1781 he took orders in the Church of England, served the church there briefly and then traveled to India where he was a chaplain for the East India Company and minister in Madras. Later, he was appointed superintendent of the Madras Male Orphan Asylum where he invented the Madras System of Education (also referred to as mutual education). The school was badly funded and the quality of instruction was poor so Bell came up with the idea of first teaching his prize students subjects and then having them teach their fellow students.

Returning to England 1796, Bell published an account of his teaching methods, *An Experiment in Education*, to promote its use to educate the poor. Later, he was to publish *Sketch of a National Institution* and founded a society to hasten the adoption of his system throughout the country. He amassed considerable wealth which towards the end of his life he bequeathed to various educational institutions. At the time of his death in 1832 more than 12,000 schools

had adopted the Madras System. As a testament of his influence and impact on the public education system in England, Andrew Bell was accorded the honor of being buried in Westminster Abbey.

Benjamin Bell, an eminent surgeon, was born in Dumfries in 1749. He was the last Bell to own Blackethouse, the sale of which provided funds for his and other family member's educations.

After serving his apprenticeship to a surgeon and apothecary in his hometown, he proceeded to Edinburgh where in due time he completed the requisite studies for admission to the Royal College of Surgeons.



Benjamin Bell

Following lengthy visits to Paris and London in the early 1770s to improve his skills in surgery, he returned to Edinburgh where he established in short order a thriving practice as both a skillful operator and consulting surgeon. Over the ten year period 1778—1788, Bell published his multiple volume treatise *A System of Surgery*. This work and later treatises in medicine were well received by the profession and much in demand. In addition to his medical profession, he was an erudite scholar, writing essays on taxes, public funding, the National debt, agriculture and land improvement.

Benjamin Bell died in 1806 and is buried at Cannongate Church in Edinburgh. A large monument to the famous surgeon and Joseph Bell, the inspiration for Sherlock Holmes, is built into the south wall of the church grounds. A further reminder of these most accomplished gentlemen are Blacket Avenue and Place, quite streets in Edinburgh now lined with handsome Victorian era-villa town homes close to where their mansions once stood.

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BELL~A~PEAL

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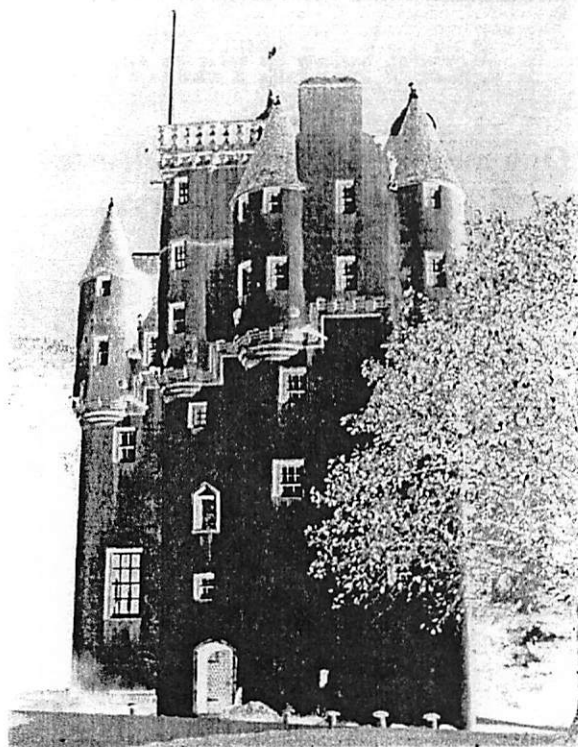
Volume 14, Issue 2

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April - July, 2000

CASTLES IN SCOTLAND A BELL LEGACY

by Lynda Bashoor



Lynda Bashoor is a relatively new member of the BFA, but this in no way dims her passionate interest in all things Bell. Somewhat a romantic, Lynda loves castles, particularly one called Craigeivar which was built by a Bell mason. Her dream is to someday build a replica of Craigeivar in north-east Pennsylvania which she would like to make into a rallying point for clan gatherings and meetings, venue for Celtic and Scottish festivals, repository for Bell information, both historical and genealogical, and study center for Celtic studies. The Clan Bell web site will soon be featuring a special page on Lynda's "Castles of Mar." The following article, written and compiled by Lynda, is a condensation of the material that will be featured on the web site. -- the editor.

There were no Bells of nobility who owned and lived in large castles. But perhaps for the better, there were Bells who were famous master masons and architects who built castles that have survived the ages and still stand. As a Bell descendant, I am proud of the accomplishments of these castle builders and would like to share with other members what I know about their creations in stone and plaster.

Referred to as the Castles of Mar, the five castles Bell masons were involved in building are in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. They are Craigeivar, Midmar, Fraser, Fyvie and Crathes. All are of different designs and sizes and each took varying amounts of time to build. Of importance to me in any castle discussion, is that credit for building of the structures be given to our Bell ancestors. Many historical accounts about the castles are limited to information about the laird or nobility who actually provided only the funds to finance the construction. Largely ignored, however, were the knowledge, expertise and skill of more than one generation of Bell masons that designed the castles and supervised the actual work of the hundreds of quarrymen, woodcutters, smiths, miners, ditchers, carters and carpenters that were employed in their construction. So, in this respect, our ancestors, as master masons, were very important men. The three known are Ian (John), Georgeo (George) and David. They built various structures, including the castles, from 1570 to 1639. Their seals can still be observed carved into the walls of some of the castles.

The castles still stand for us to see because they were solidly built, were not the targets of prolonged siege assaults and were built inland away from the damaging effects of the sea. Most of the Castles of Mar today are maintained and owned by the National Trust of Scotland. The first of the five castles I would like to acquaint you with is Craigeivar because it is my favorite.

(Continued on page 3)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS NOTICE — SEE PAGES 6-9



An Ceann Círean Cinnidh

BELL~A~PEAL

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Volume 14, Issue 1

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January - June, 2000

The Right to (or not to) Bear Arms

by Ward L. Ginn, Jr., FSA Scot

Suppose that your name is Bell (or one of the variant spellings of Bell) or you descend from a Bell, regardless of the spelling. Suppose further that you are so proud of your heritage that you would like to adopt as your own the coat of arms (or one like it) displayed in the center of this page. You like the coat of arms so much that you use it on personal stationary and other items and represent it to friends as being your family's coat of arms, or worse, your own. Matter of fact, many other Bells over the years have shared your interest in this "family" coat of arms, adopting it as a family signature of such surnames as Beal, Beall and Beale. This is all wrong, however, We do not have the right to use it. By representing the coat of arms as being ours, we have "usurped" the arms of someone else.

The arms at center page with the "no" symbol superimposed, originally belonged to Sir Robert Bell, Knight and Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer who died in 1577 during the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Under the rules and customs of heraldry in Scotland and England, these arms, with some modification, can be granted to an heir of Sir Robert through the process of matriculation. Unless you are that person and have been granted arms by the Lord Lyon, with some differences from the original, you have no right to use it. Let the "no" symbol remind you that you should not adopt this or any other Bell coat of arms as a personal device of recognition unless, however, you are properly authorized to do so.

It is not the purpose of this article to scare anyone. In a more positive sense, its purpose is to educate. The granting and proper use of coats of arms are not understood by the typical American because basically it is an

old world custom. It is this widespread lack of understanding which perpetuates the misuse and often abuse of the custom in the United States. Part of the blame can be placed on unscrupulous dealers who for a tidy profit, exploit the ignorance of the average consumer by dispensing phony coats of arms. It is a problem that has been around for a long time and will remain so as long as we are ignorant and gullible to fraudulent sales pitches.

As far back as 1929, for example, the following sales pitch was used to create demand and thus a market for Bell arms, possibly those of Sir Robert.

"..Many Americans are today displaying Coats of Arms which have been adopted by their progenitors in Europe. ...Besides its family significance the Bell Coat of Arms makes an excellent mural decoration and inspires the admiration and comment of all who see it. Being a member of the Bell family, it is quite appropriate that you should display this Coat of Arms, in proper colors, on the wall of your home or office, and use it on your stationary. This would be visible testimony to your friends and to the world of your justifiable pride in your family history, traditions and standards."

Is it any wonder that Americans have the wrong ideas about the proper use of coats of arms given this kind of misinformation? Unscrupulous marketers, including fly-by-night "heraldry" mail order companies, continue today to exploit family pride by peddling bogus arms. Whether at Scottish games, wine festivals or other venues you will also find people offering to sell you for generally a pretty price "your" or "your family's" coat of arms. After reading this article, you will be the wiser and spend your money on better things.

There have been many Bells over the centuries

(Continued on page 3)





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Oct., Nov., Dec., 1998

CLAN BELL

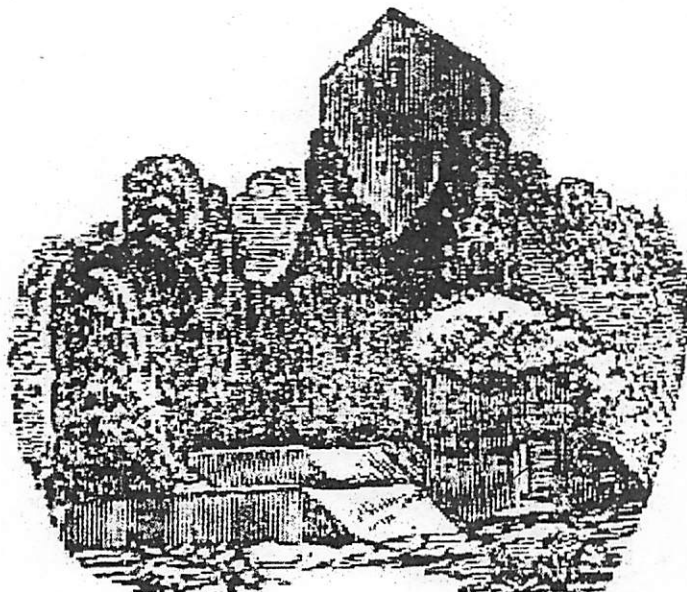
The lead article which follows is taken from a paper written by John Lawrence Bruce Bell, Lieutenant to the Chief Apparent of Clan Bell. Subsequent to publication of the paper, Douglas Bell, C.B.E., passed away in 1993, and Benjamin Bell succeeded his father as Chief Apparent of Clan Bell.

ORIGINS

The family may well descend from a Norman follower of King David I (c1080-1153), and by the end of the 13th century it was well established in Dumfriesshire, Berwickshire, and Perth. The name is thought to derive from the old French "BEL" meaning "Handsome." After the Norman Conquest, the English Chronicles record names like ROBERT LE BEL of London, c1147, and JOHN LE BEL of Northamptonshire, 1166. The "LE" would soon be dropped in England and Scotland, but not in France. Between the years 1326 and 1361, JEAN LE BEL wrote his "True and notable history," inspiring Jean Froissart by so doing, and various families called LE BEL are listed in the Dictionaire de la Noblesse (Paris 1863). Since LE BEL is a descriptive name, it is reasonable to suppose that a number of people would have been so-called in the 11th and 12th centuries. A common ancestry for all the LE BELS, BELS, and BELLS, cannot therefore be assumed. The old spelling of BEL can still be seen on some 17th century tombstones in Middlebie Kirkyard, but this may be a matter of phonetics or economy, rather than an attempt to preserve an ancient tradition. Nevertheless, who can really be sure that it is not a folk memory, quietly handed down by one generation to another?

HISTORY

1204- WALDEF BELL was cited for plunder in Cumberland, (Calendar of Documents Relating to Scotland), and for the



"a mile distant from Sprinkell on the right bank of the Kirtle, is the Tower of Blackethouse, in Middlebie, formerly possessed by a family of the name of Bell" (from *Rammerscales Memorial*)

next four hundred years, the BELLS engaged in a struggle for survival, and in doing what they could for the defence of Scotland's West March. The **Plan of Castlemilk**, dated 1547, shows an area of Dumfriesshire "Inhabited by the BELLS," an area lying athwart one of the main invasion routes of the English armies. A "Riding" family of the West March, the majority of the BELLS lived largely by Border Reiving, operating at night in hostile English territory. They established links with other Border families to add to their strength, and hence to their security. In the 16th century, the Grahams and the Carlises were particularly close to the BELLS, though it should be said that only certain of the Grahams could be

(Continued on page 2)

Additional Topics Inside!

President's Page.....	5	The Book Nook.....	10	Flowers Of The Forest.....	18
Treasurer Report.....	6	Members In Flight.....	11	The Query Corner.....	19
Mystery In Ivory.....	7	How Many Bells Are There?.....	14	The Bells Of Early Texas.....	21
The Battle Of Dunbar.....	8	Scottish Games and Festivals.....	15	Store Page.....	22