

THE BUCHANAN BANNER:



Vol. VIII

Winter 1983-84

No. 3



An Cìrean  Ceann Cinnidh

CLAN BUCHANAN SOCIETY
IN AMERICA, Inc.





CLAN BUCHANAN SOCIETY
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Purpose

The purpose of this organization is to foster and promote understanding and good fellowship among descendants of Scots in America; to study, preserve, and promote the culture, customs, and traditions of the people of Scotland and the Isles especially with regard to the Clan Buchanan; to foster and promote the Society by initiating goals and objectives consistent with our heritage and desires of the membership.



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

AGUS BLIADHNA NHATH UR! And I hope that]984 will be a "super" year for the Clan Buchanan Society in America. We were represented at more games and gatherings in]983 than ever before and more are being advertised for this year. They seem to be springing up like mushrooms after a spring rain! Obviously we cannot cover all of them, but if there is one in your area that will attract a good crowd, please let me know if you would like to be a convener. We particularly need representation in the mid-west - Michigan and Minnesota especially. I am especially pleased to receive applications on which the individual(s) indicate a willingness to serve in some capacity or other.

Regrettably, however, Lavon Watson, our Membership Secretary, tells me that at least]]6 of our members in]983 have failed to renew for 1984 and another 76 are delinquent for two years or more. This concerns me greatly. Are we, as a Society, failing to provide enough information or activities to maintain your interest? I would like to hear from the membership your suggestions for improvement. In addition to participation at many of the Scottish Games/Gatherings, we have an annual picnic in the Annapolis area, a number of us attend the local Burns Nicht affairs, and we are presently planning a group tour of Scotland in]985.

We are in the process of preparing a computerized membership list which will be made available to any member upon request, and the payment of a small fee to cover printing and postage. I will repeat my earlier statement in the "Banner" - "If, for any reason, you do not wish your name published in the list of members, please notify Ms. Lavon Watson, our Membership Secretary to that effect. The list will be restricted to distribution to members only and not to any outside organization(s)."

Last but certainly not least, please check your membership card, "If it ain't blue, please renew!"

Aye yours,
George





An Apology
and A
CORRECTION OF A REGRETTABLE OVERSIGHT

It has been brought to our attention that during the preparation of the history of the Clan Buchanan Society in America we failed to recognize the contributions of several individuals toward the founding of the Clan Buchanan Society in America. Fred H. and Kathryn Buchanan, Vernon and Betty Devol, Fred B. and Ann Buchanan, Ural W. Watson, Mr. & Mrs. John B. McMaster, David Buchanan Bristow and Lavon Watson were registered at the Registrar Tent at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in 1969. Meeting informally this group by consensus agreed that they should form a Clan Buchanan Society and that the first annual meeting should be held in 1970. At the annual meeting in 1970 Fred H. Buchanan was elected the First Convener and remained in that position and active in the affairs of the Society until his untimely death in June 1974.

A revised brochure will be issued which will properly recognize the role of all those responsible for the establishment of the Clan Buchanan Society in America, Inc.

It is requested that anyone with new or additional information, please contact us.

We deeply regret the unfortunate oversight and apologize to those who may have been embarrassed or offended by this action. We also wish to extend this apology to any and all who were not properly recognized.

The Executive Counsel



Grandfather Mountain
Highland Games and Clan Buchanan Society
Annual Meeting

The GFM Highland Games will be held on 14 and 15 July this year (1984) this means that the Clan Buchanan Society's Annual meeting will be held on Friday evening, 13 July 1984 (Friday the 13th!! Lets just consider ourselves Lucky).

The Society will be headquartered at the High Country Inn (formerly Ramada Inn) Boone, N.C. We have reserved a block of rooms and a hospitality suite and we will be holding our Annual Meeting there on Friday evening 13, July 1984. If you wish reservations at the High Country Inn you should write:

Reservations Clerk
High Country Inn (formerly Ramada Inn)
P. O. Box 1339
Boone, N.C. 28607
(704)-264-1000

Rates are: Single - \$40.00
Double - \$50.00

You must make your reservation with the High Country Inn by 21 June 1984.

If you need help in planning other accommodations in the area you may call toll free, from the Eastern United States -- 800-438-7500, if you call from North Carolina dial 800-222-7515 and if you call from outside the toll free zone dial (704)264-2225.

When you make your reservation at the High Country Inn tell them that you are a Clan Buchanan Society member.



Flowers of the Forest



When death's dark stream I ferry o'er,
A time that surely will come,
In Heaven itself I'll ask no more
Thank just a Highland welcome. -- Robert Burns

Our deepest sympathies are extended to Frank Slater
and family for the loss of his wife.



The Scot

"The end result of generations...of the Scottish Hegira, is that the emigrant Scot made it. He secured a place for himself and achieved respect and substance wherever he went. He assimilated well in his adopted country. He created..no Scottish Lobby, no Scottish Problem, no Scottish Question. The Scot was and is a good citizen wherever he settles. But...he retains an affection for a pride in his heritage. He seeks to maintain his family and his clan links. Why?? Why??

"It cannot be special languages, songs, dances, a peculiar dress. Other people have these. The only conclusion which I have been able to accept is that we all feel deep down that to be a Scot is to stand for a set of values.

"... We have a precious and a wonderful heritage in which our forefathers placed a burden on us whether we are Scots at home or overseas. They passed on to us a reputation for strength of character. They did not achieve that by running away from life or its battles. They would have scorned today's permissive society. They knew that the man who was truly a Scot had a deep awareness of the importance of the abiding values...."



From an address by James S. Adam FSA(Scot)



Genealogical Corner



The following pedigrees have been added to the Clan Society's Archives.

Henry H. Buchanan of Deer Park, Texas descends from John Buchanan born 17?? whose son was Obediah Buchanan born 1811 Shelbyville, Bedford Co., Tennessee and died 1874 Union County, Mississippi.

Mai Whitworth Demonbreun of Nashville, Tennessee from Alexander Buchanan who came to America in 1702 with line back through the Carbeth line.

Wayne Gibson of Raleigh, North Carolina from Ziba and Mary Bennett Gibson of Scotland who came to America in 1738.

Marie Dove Law Patten of Raleigh, North Carolina from John Dove of Scotland who was in Anson County, N.C. in 1777 and then Richmond County after 1784.

Dorotha Virginia Morris McArtor of East Rochester, Ohio from William Morris born 1722 in Liverpool, England and came to the Kanawha Valley of Virginia.

Timothy C. Gibson of Crowley, Texas descended from James Gibson, born about 1745 probably Scotland, who came from County Antrim, Ulster 1772-173 to South Carolina where he died 1807 in York County.

Waldo Richard Buchanan of Bowling Green, Missouri from Evan Buchanan born 1805 in Henry County, Kentucky

James H. Capps of Knoxville, Tennessee from Samuel McCammon in Tyrone, Ireland during 18th century.

Tim Jansen of Dayton, Oregon from Eleanor Buchanan born 1774 in Pennsylvania, possibly Washington County, died 1814 at Goshen, Clermont County, Ohio. Married about 1796 John Irwin of Pennsylvania.

Forty-three pedigrees are now on file.

Queries from Clansmen which have been received follow:

Waldo R. Buchanan 215 West Church Street, P. O. Box 29, Bowling Green, Missouri 63334 seeks to connect his ancestor James Buchanan who died 1813 Henry County, Kentucky with branch of family in Scotland or Ireland.

Walter L. Hall, P. O. Box 608, Montreat, N.C. 28757 is searching for any information on parents or brothers and sisters of James Buchanan born Dec. 25, 1765 and died May 6, 1858. Married Martha Black born 1771, died 1854. Family settled in Jackson County, North Carolina.

Ellie Berger, P. O. Box 3116, Ontario, Canada reports that her ancestor was Ann or Anna Buchanan, born 1770, who married Enos Miles during 1789 in Franklin County, Virginia. Tradition that the family is related to President James Buchanan as Ann(a) Buchanan is reported to be a daughter of the President's grandparents, John and Jane (Russell) Buchanan. Ellie seeks confirmation.

Sharon Sealy, 19632 Lakepart Drive, Lynwood, Illinois 60411 seeks Buchanan background of her great-grandmother, Sabrina Elizabeth Porter, born 21 January 1854 daughter of Jesse and Melvina (Standard) Porter. A platter on display at the Johnson County Museum in Vienna, Illinois belonged to Sabrina Porter who reportedly was a grand-niece of President James Buchanan.

Mrs. Robert Patten, 4812 Six Forks Road, Apt. 818, Raleigh, NC 27609 seeks information about the Dove family, sept of Clan Buchanan. An ancestor in 1777 was at Anson County, North Carolina with earlier migration through Virginia.

The Honorary Historian of The Buchanan Society, (This is the oldest clan society in existance, formed in 1725) has most graciously offered her assistance in recommending sources of information relating to Clan Buchanan and its Septs. Inquiries should be addressed to:

Ms. Muriel Buchanan - Kay
6514 Murrayburn Park
Edinburgh EH14 sPP
Scotland, U.K.

As with all overseas queries, please enclose two International Postal Coupons (65 cents at your local post office) and an address label with the return address indicated.

Other contacts in which you may be interested include:

Scottish Local History Society
16 Tantallon Place
Edinburgh EH9 1NZ
Scotland, U.K.
Attention: Mrs. Kirkland

Largs and District History Society
Mrs. J. Mensing, Hon. Secretary
Glasserton, 12 Scott Crescent
Largs, Ayrshire, Scotland, U.K.

The National History and Antiquarian
Society of Mid - Argyll (KIST)
Kilchoan Lodge, Peltalloch
Lochgilphead, Argyll, Scotland

Editors Note:

Rowland advises me that he is off on a trip to Antartica and the South Pacific but keep your pedigrees and queries coming because he will continue to support this corner even at that great distance.

Send them to:

Cdr. Rowland S. Wilson USN (Ret.)
3011-34th St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20008



Coast Guard's Only Medal of Honor Holder Was a Scot

In all the 192 years of its glorious history, the U.S. Coast Guard has had only one person who has been awarded the Medal of Honor.

He was Douglas Munro, a 23-year-old Signalman 1st who died at Guadalcanal during World War II. His 86-year-old mother, Mrs. Edith Munro, of Spokane, Wash., took part in a 40th Anniversary Memorial Tribute held in Winter Haven, Fla., August 5-7, 1982.

Munro gave his own life to save the lives of 500 others.

It happened on the morning of September 27, 1942, when U.S. Marines were trying to establish a beachhead on the island of Guadalcanal. Though the landings were initially successful, the Japanese mounted a violent counterattack. A battalion of Marines was hopelessly pinned down and called for retrieval from the beach. Volunteers were asked to go in under increasing hostile fire to withdraw the Marines. Munro stepped forward and volunteered to lead the flotilla of 12 boats that headed for the beach in the rescue attempt.

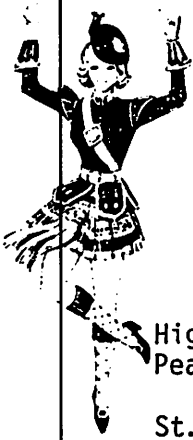
When they neared the beach, Munro ordered all boats to lay off out of gunfire range while he went in alone to check the beach. He loaded 30 Marines aboard his small craft and hurried them offshore for transfer to one of the waiting boats. Then he led a small group of boats back to the beach to load the remaining Marines.

Wounded Marines were dragged and carried by companions to the waiting boats and when they were finally loaded the boats began their withdrawal to safety. As fate would have it, one landing barge grounded on a coral reef, still within range of the enemy guns. Munro ordered his boat alongside to serve as a shield against increasing incoming fire. He and his crew got a line over to the stranded vessel and yanked it off the reef. At that moment, the Japanese fire began to concentrate on the two boats. Munro and his buddy, Ray Evans, another Coast Guardman, manned machine guns and returned the fire as the two boats struggled to get out of range. Eventually they made it, but Douglas Munro had received mortal wounds. Ray Evans heard his last words, "Did we get them all off?"

They did. Five hundred Marines, including the legendary Marine hero, then Lt. Col. Lewis "Chesty" Puller, had been successfully evacuated. For his part in the action, Munro was awarded the nation's highest honor. His friend, later Commander Ray Evans, was awarded the Navy Cross for his heroic actions.

On December 5, 1970, the Coast Guard christened its high endurance cutter the DOUGLAS MUNRO.





Coming Events

March 1984

Highland Games of Hawaii
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

25th

St. Columbia Scottish
Dance Group
Iona Tesching Weekend
Cabin John, Md.

30 to 1 April

Phoenix Highland Games
Phoenix, Az.

31st

Bucks County Highland
Dancing Competition
Fairless Hills, Pa.

31st

May

Scottish Country Fair
St. Paul, Minn.

5th

Savannah Scottish Games
Savannah, Ga.

5th

Kirking of the Tartan
Sutter Creek, Calif.

13th

Spring Fling/Mini Games
Pine Mountains, Ga.

13th

Gatlinburg Highland Games
Gatlinburg, Tenn.

18-20

Alma Highland Games
Alma, Mich.

25-27

Orange Co. Calif. Highland
Games
Costa Mesa, Ca.

26-27

April

Dunedin's Highland Games
Dunedin, Fla.

5-8

Jacksonville Highland Games
Jacksonville, Fla.

14th

June

Kansas City Highland Games
Kansas City, Mo.

9th

Utah Scottish Games
Salt Lake City, Utah

16th

Gateway Highland Games
St. Louis, Mo.

18th

Ohio Scottish Games
Oberlin, Ohio

23rd

Tidewater Scottish Festival
Norfolk, Va.

23rd

Whitehorse Highland Games
Whitehorse, Yukon Canada

23rd

Ohio Scottish Arts School
Oberlin, Ohio

24-29

Kingsfield Highland Games
Kingsville, Ontario, Canada

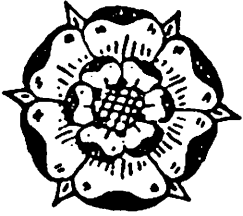
29-30



A girl living in a little village in Aberdeenshire applied for a job at a nearby farm. "First you must get me a reference from your previous employers," said the farmer.

Two weeks later the farmer met the girl in Aberdeen and asked her if she had been able to get her character reference. Replied the girl,

"Aye, that Ah have. But Ah've got yours as well, an' Ah'm no'comin'."



The Convenors Report

The 11th Annual Stone Mountain Highland Games

Stone Mountain Park, just outside Atlanta, Georgia, was again the spectacular setting for the 11th Annual Stone Mountain Games. In addition, the weather was perfect; warm and sunny all weekend.

The celebration began on Thursday with the 2nd. Annual Tattoo held in the Park Coliseum. The roster of Bands for the Tattoo included the host Atlanta Pipe Band, the Toronto Scottish, Royal Regiment of Canada, British Caledonian Airways Pipe Band, The United States Army Forces Command Band, The United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and the John Mohr MacIntosh Pipes and Drums. The bands were directed by Norman MacKenzie in a spectacular display of marching and sound. In addition, the guest of honor was introduced, His grace, the Duke of Atholl.

Saturday was the day of the bands with the competition beginning at 9:30 A.M. At noon the opening ceremonies were held on the Parade Field. Athletic events, piping, drumming and dancing competition continued all day. At 4:30 the Massed Bands performed at the Awards Ceremony.

Sunday began with a nondenominational worship service and Kirking of the Tartans at 9:30 A.M. followed by several of the interesting cultural programs on such subjects as the great highland bagpipe, Scottish country dancing, and discussion on Highland Dress and a Scottish fiddling competition. At 1:00 P.M. was the Parade of Tartans in which the Buchanans took part. Other events completed the day, including the lovable sheep dogs, at 4:30 P.M. It was good to see everyone again.

Evening events included a lovely reception for Sponsors at the Presidential Hotel and the Saturday Tartan Ball at Dunfeys. The Scottish Country Dancing was also held at Dunfeys.

President and Mrs. George S. G. Buchanan came from Texas as did Vice President and Mrs. Arren C. Buchanan, Jr. Other fairly newcomers included Dr. and Mrs. F. Talmadge Buchanan, Mr. and Mrs. Larry H. Buchanan and Dr. John K. Youel, Jr. who competed in the piping competition. In the Sunday afternoon Clan Challenge competitions, Clan Buchanan had some competitors and some winners: John Weir Wuichet won 2nd place in the Senior Intermediate Caber Toss; Davidson Mearns Wuichet won 1st place in the Junior Caber Toss; and Ruth Ellen Belcher won 2nd place in the Junior Caber Toss. Debbie Belcher won 1st place in my heart for her dedicated attendance at the tent all weekend to help with the many visitors who came by. In all, over 60 families signed our register; we welcomed eight new members, including one Sponsor Member, received eight more renewals from our faithful Stone Mountain members. We also did a good business in the new tee shirts and other items for Promotional Activities. It was another "BANNER" year.



Margretta Buchanan Eagon
Convener, Stone Mtn. Games



Twenty-Second Annual Scottish Highland Games And Gathering of The Clans

Salado, Texas - November 12 & 13, 1983

The 22nd Annual Scottish Gathering of the Clans began with a flourish of drums, the drone of many pipes, and the colorful swirl of bright Tartan kilts as approximately 1000 people from all over Texas and surrounding states greeted old friends at Salado, Texas. Early arrivals/judges were entertained in "The Hall of the Clans" in the Central Texas Area Museum" with a 'finger-tip supper' and a special program by the Champion Scottish Fiddler, Dr. John Turner, of Virginia--a psychiatrist and an ordained Methodist minister. He also told many Scottish stories of the origin of Scottish Fiddling and how the Scottish Fiddler was made to resemble the sound of the bagpipes, which had been banned by the English in 1747 after their victory at the Battle of Culloden Moor.

Early Saturday morning, the drone of 35-40 bagpipes and the clatter of many drums resounded about "the Green" on the banks of Salado Creek where 150 Highland Fling dancers were competing; five Pipe-Bands from San Antonio, Austin, Houston, Dallas and the new Texas A & M University Pipe Band performed at many events as well as competed for awards. Ex-World Champion Piper James MacIntosh judged the piping; John Murray of New Jersey again judged the drumming. Nine Clan Society tents were set up in a semicircle about the edge of "The Green" for assistance in genealogy and sponsoring many new memberships in clan societies--Clan Buchanan Society tent was presided over by its national President (ret) George S. G. Buchanan and Vice-President Dr. Arren C. Buchanan, very ably assisted by their wives Jane and Mona Buchanan. Neighboring tents represented Clans Donald, MacKay, Campbell, Robertson, Coqhoun, MacLean and MacLellan.

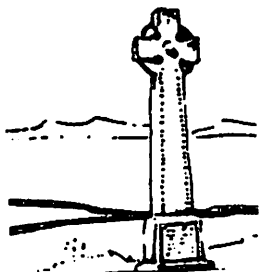
Two Ceilidh's at 3p.m. and 7p.m. well attended by 300 people enjoyed the Scottish Folk Songs of M. C. Dr. Arthur Gordon Mason, Scottish Fiddling by Dr. John Turner, four sets of Scottish Country dancers, the new Texas A&M University Pipe Band and the 40 piece Highland Park (Dallas) British Brass & Pipe Band and Lassies performances. Afterward approximately 120 in full Scottish regalia enjoyed the Tartan Ball, Banquet and dancing in the Longhorn Room of the Stagecoach Inn.

Sunday morning church services and Kirkin 'O' the Tartans in the Longhorn Room/Hall of the Clans, were presided over by Dr. John Turner and Rev. Henry Mabry, early chaplain of these Scottish gatherings. Again many bagpipes and pipe-bands could be heard throughout the area as many young athletes competed in "The Kilted Mile", tossing the sheaf etc. The first Texas Sheep-dog competition was also held on the nearby hillside of the 130 year old Plantation of Col. Sterling Robertson.

Closing ceremonies were held with The Parade of Tartans lead by massed pipe bands at the hill in front of there viewing stand at the Central Texas Area Museum.



Arren C. Buchanan, M.D., Convener
for Texas



BURN'S WEST HIGHLAND TOUR - The Grierson MS.



During the summer of 1787, Robert Burns undertook a short tour of the West Highlands. Very little is known about it. The little that is known has been pieced together from his letter and other scraps of information.

A document which has been almost completely ignored by Burns biographers is "Hints respecting Burns the Ayrshire Poet" by Dr. George Grierson, first printed by the Rev. Peter Hatley Waddell in his edition of "Burn's Life and Works" published in monthly parts between 1867 and 1869. The Grierson MS, was extant in 1867 and was then in the possession of John Reid Kingston Place, Glasgow, as were also several Burns letters, which he made available to Waddell. Since Waddell's 'Life and Works' is not easily accessible, the text of the Grierson document is reprinted here for the benefit of readers.

Whoe'er thou art that lodgest here,
Heaven Help thy wofu' cause;
Unless thou com'st to visit Him,
That King of Kings, his Grace.

There's Highland greed, there's Highland pride;
There's Highland scab and hunger
If Heaven it was that sent me here,
It sent me in an anger

The above lines were written at the Inn at Inverary by Robert Burns, on the pane of glass, in presence of George Grierson.

Burns wrote an encomium on Mary McLachlan, the Innkeepers daughter, at Tarbert--ending with:

To fair Maria and McLachlan,
Quod Burns, a rhymer lad frae Mauchlin.

In June of 1787; when Burns made a young man, Duncan McLachlan, son of Mr. McLachlan of Bannachra, bring out the largest bowl of punch his house could furnish and made all the ladies and gentlemen kneel down, till he would repeat extempore, at the dawn of Day, an Invocation to the Sun. The company were: Dr. Grierson, Mr. McLachlan, Jr, and the family Mr. McFarlan from Jamaica, Mr. John Sheddan, Merchant, and Miss Sheddan of Glasgow, Mr. Gardner of Lady-Kirk, and the two Misses Butters from Edinburgh.

Next day, Messrs, Grierson, Gardner and Burns left Arden in the evening near Loch Lomond and in coming to Dumbarton met with a Highlandman riding with his bare-back-on a bare-back horse. Burns pursued the Highlandman, till he was thrown from his horse into a thorn tree. Here is Burn's own account which he gave to his friend, James Smith in a letter dated 30th June 1787:

"On our return, at a Highland gentleman's hospitable mansion (Arden House still there), we fell in with a merry party, and danced till the ladies left us, at three in the morning. Our dancing was none of the French or English insipid formal movements; the ladies sung Scotch songs like angels, at intervals; then we flew at Bab at the Bowster, Tullochgorum, Loch Erroch Side, and c. like midges sporting in the mottie sun, or craws prognosticating a storm in hairst day. When the dear lasses left us, we ranged round the bowl till the

goodfellow hour of six: except a few minutes that we went out to pay our devotions to the glorious lamp of day peering over the towering top of Ben Lomond. We all kneeled; our landlord's son held the bow; each man a full glass in his hand; and I, as priest, repeated some rhyming nonsense, like Thomas-a-Rhymer's prophecies I suppose. After a small refreshment of the gifts of Somnus, we proceeded to spend the day on Loch Lomond, and reached Dumbarton in the evening. We dined at another good fellow's house, and consequently, pushed the bottle; when we went out to mount our horses, we found ourselves 'No vera fou but gaylie yet'. My two friends and I rode soberly down the Loch side, till by came a Highlandman at the gallop, on a tolerably good horse, but which had never known the ornaments of iron or leather. We scorned to be out-galoped by a Highlandman, so off we started, whip and spur. My companions, though seemingly gaily mounted, fell sadly astern; but my old mare, Jenny Geddes, one of the Rosinante family, strained past the Highlandman in spite of all his efforts with the hair halter; just as I was passing him, Donald wheeled his horse, as if to cross before me to mar my progress, when down came his horse, and threw his rider's breechless (trouserless) a_e in a clipt hedge; and down came Jenny Geddes over all, and my Bardship between her and the Highlandman's horse. Jessy Geddes trode over me with such a cautious reverence that matters were not so bad as might well have been expected; so I came off with a few cuts and bruises, and a thorough resolution to be a pattern of sobriety for the future."

Robert Burns

Numerous speculations have been made as to the identity of the 'good fellow' at whose house Burns dine and 'pushed the bottle,' following his merry evening at Bannachra. Grierson supplied the answer when he wrote, Next day Messrs Grierson, Gardner and Burns left Arden in the evening'. At that time Arden was the home of Mr. George Buchanan, a Glasgow Tobacco lord, whose name appears on the list of subscribers to the Edinburgh Edition. About the year 1770, according to Waddell, he acquired the lands of Auchindennan--Dennistoun and the adjoining lands of Bannachra. He renamed the estate Arden House, by which name it is still known today. The word of Burn's arrival in the area would no doubt reach Arden, as McLachlans of Bannachra were tenants of George Buchanan.

The three travellers reached Dumbarton...the magistrates did them all the honour of conferring the freedom of their city and Oliphant preached the next day, being Fast-day, against the parties foresaid, and found great fault with the magistrates for conferring honours on the author of vile, detestable, and immoral publications (R. Burns). Rev. James Oliphant, the Auld Licht Minister of Dumbarton Parish Kirk had been lampooned by Burns the previous year 1786 in his poem 'The Ordination':

Curst common-sense, that imp o' hell,
 Cam in wi' maggie Launder;
 But Oliphant aft made her yell
 An' Russel sair misca'd her.

Before his move to Dumbarton in 1773, Oliphant was Minister of the High Kirk, Kilmarnock for eleven years. His successor was 'Black' Jock Russel, another Auld Licht, who had incurred Burn's satire on more than one occasion. He is known to have 'shared the ten' with Oliphant at 'Holy Fairs' in Dumbarton, and no doubt would pass on to him all the 'scandal' concerning the young anti-clerical Ayrshire Poet.


On his return from the West Highland Tour, Burns presided at a meeting of the St. James Masonic Lodge, Tarbolton, of which he was Deputy Master. The entry in the minute book, in Burn's own hand, records:

This night the Deputation of the Lodge met at Mauchline, and entered Brother Alexander Allison of Barnmuir, an apprentice. Likewise admitted Bros. Professor Stuart of Cathrine, and Claude Alexander, Esq., of Ballochmyle; Claude Neilson, Esq. Paisley; John Farquahr Gray, Esq., of Gilmiscroft; and Dr. George Grierson, Glasgow, Honorary Members of the Lodge.

The Grierson MS is a rather curious and plain-worded document, if read in conjunction with Burns's letters which refer to the West Highland Tour, and especially the one to James Smith, already quoted, it must be admitted that it is essentially correct in the facts, as related by the poet himself. It helps to shed additional light, however, little, or a journey that is vague and perplexing to all students of Burns.

BY

JEAN ARMOUR HUNT



Royal Descent of President
James Buchanan

Charles Henry Browning in his "Americans of Royal Descent", Genealogical Publishing Company, Blatimore Md. states that of the Presidents of the United States these apparently were of Royal Descent: Washington, John Quincy Adams, Wm. H. Harrison, Buchanan, Lincoln, Benjamin Harrison and Theodore Roosevelt.

President Buchana's royal descent was, it is claimed, through the Buchanans of Romelton, in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland, cadets of the Buchanans of Blairlusk, and Lairds of Buchanan in Scotland, from ancient Kings of Ireland. It was also claimed that President Buchanan and the Cassalt family of Haverford, Pa. were descendants of Robert the Bruce King of Scots and the Stewart kings through Lady Isabella Stewart (the alleged mother of Thomas Buchanan, First Laird of Carbeth, third son of Sir. Walter Buchanan, Twelfth Laird of Buchanan), daughter of Murdoch Stewart, Second Duke of Albany, sometime Regent (Governor) of Scotland, who was executed for treason in 1425, by his wife Lady Isabella, daughter of Duncan, Earl of Lennox. Albany was the grandson of Robert II, King of Scots. Recent investigations into this claim has cast doubt upon it. It seems that because Thomas Buchanan of Carbeth, and his brothers, Patrick and Maurice, did not share in the partition and settlement of the Lennox estate (Lady Isabella Stewart, alleged mother of Thomas Buchanan of Carbeth, was the granddaughter of Duncan, Earl of Lennox), it is doubtful that Thomas was really a son of Lady Isabella, rather he was the son of another wife whose name is unknown. This causes us to question the lineal descent from the Royal House of Stewart of the Laird of Carbeth through Lady Isabella whose anti-nuptial contract with Sir. Walter Buchanan was dated 17 February 1391. However, some reason may be discovered why these Buchanans did not participate in the division of the Lennox estate for the younger brother, Maruce was of an age suitable to have been Lady Isabella's son, as he was in the suite of Sr. John Stewart of Darnley, in 1427 about twenty five years after his father's marriage to Lady Isabella Stewart.

There is of course a striking resemblance between the Arms of Buchanan and the Royal Stewart Arms. Legend has it that the Black Lion rampant was chosen by Sr. Walter the 12th Laird to signify the mourning of the Clan Buchanan when Murdoch was executed for treason.



Annual Election

In accordance with Article VIII and IX of the By Laws an election will be held to elect the following offices:

Member at Large (Advisor) - For 1 year term

Class of 1987 Trustees (2) - For 3 year term

The By Laws (Article VII, Section 9) state that all nominees for office must meet certain qualifications in order to be eligible to hold office. They are:

- a) Be a participating active member in good standing for at least one year.
- b) Be capable of fulfilling the duties and obligations of the office for which nominated.
- c) No person may be nominated unless that person has consented to the nomination in advance.

Please submit your nominations to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee:

Richard C. Hobbs
Chairman, Nominating Committee
Clan Buchanan Society in America, Inc.
50 Highland Place
Indian Head, Md. 20640

All nominations must be postmarked no later than 10 April 1984 in order to receive consideration.

The Scots Language

The Scots language (Lowland Scots as differentiated from Highland Gaelic) evolved from a complicated mixture of Anglo-Saxon, Old Norse, and French, with a few words of Dutch and Flemish thrown in.

The word "kilt" comes from a Norse verb meaning "to tuck up." The "tucking-up" was necessary in order to wear the ancient belted plaid which differs from the short pleated kilt as we know it today. In fact, Magnus III of Norway who devastated the Hebrides in 1098, like the kilt so much he introduced it to Norway where it was worn for the next 100 years. His wearing of the kilt earned him the nickname "Barfod" or Bareleg.

"Hogmanay" has nothing to do with pigs. It came from the French--a Picardy dialect form of aguillanneuf, the children's begging-song on New Year's Eve.

The original pronunciation of Menzies, MacKenzie, and Dalziel was Menyies, MacKenyeie, and Dalyell. The "z" appeared because of printers' confusion in finding the correct form for "y" on lists of German and Anglo-Saxon phonetic symbols.





The Brahan Seer

By Stan Rae III

Second sight is one of the immemorial talents of the Highlands. By far the greatest prophet of the future in the history of Scotland was a man whose predictions are still, according to some, being fulfilled: Kenneth Mackenzie, the Brahan Seer. In Gaelic he was COINNEACH ODHAR. Mackenzie was a farm worker on the Black Isle, in what is now Ross and Cromarty, near Inverness. In a later day he might have been a crofter.

He was born at the beginning of the seventeenth century; he acquired his powers as a young man, and legend says that his mother was responsible for his receiving the gift. (The name Brahan came from the farm where he worked as a laborer.)

Word of his power spread when he began predicting with accuracy not only certain deaths and other local events but also the birth of a child with two navels and another with four thumbs. Soon he began to travel the Highlands foretelling the future. He said that ships would one day sail behind Tomnahurich Hill in Inverness, thus predicting a Hundred fifty years before its construction the Caledonian Canal.

He foretold the Clearances, "There will come a time when the jaw bone of the sheep will put the plow on the rafters, and the clans will flee their native country before an army of sheep." Walking on Culloden Moor, a hundred years before the clans were destroyed there, he said, "This black moor shall, before many generations have passed away, be stained with the best blood of the Highlands. Glad am I that I will not see that day, for it will be a fearful period. Heads will be cut off by the score, and no mercy will be shown or quarter given on either side."

Mackenzie had his lighter side as his fame became universal in the Highlands. The seer was apparently not only shrewd but also sarcastic, flippant, caustic and funny, and these attributes brought about his death. The wife of the Mackenzie chief summoned him to Brahan Castle and asked him if her husband was safe. For many months the Mackenzie had been in Paris.

"Safe? I would say so," said the seer.

"What is he doing?"

"He is happy and merry and kissing the hand of a woman with his hand around her waist."

This infuriated the chief's wife, who decided that the seer had made his last prediction, and Mackenzie did not soften the case against him when he looked over the highborn children playing in the castle yard and said that most of them appeared to have been sired by gillies and lackeys.

At this, the Brahan Seer was dropped into a barrel of boiling tar. Knives had been driven into the sides of the barrel. He said a word or two before he went: "I see into the far future, and I read the doom of the race of my oppressor, whose long line will, before many generations have passed, end in extinction and in sorrow. I see a chief, the last of his house, both deaf and dumb. He will be the father of four fair sons, all of whom he will follow to the tomb. He will live careworn and mourning, knowing that the honors of his line are to be extinguished forever, and that no future chief of the Mackenzie shall rule at Brahan or in Kintail. As a sign by which it may be known that these things are coming to pass, there shall be four great lairds in the days of the last deaf and dumb chief -- Gairloch, Chisolm, Grant, and Ramsey - of whom one shall be bucktoothed, another hairlipped, another half-witted, and the fourth a stammerer. When the last Mackenzie chief looks around him and sees them, he may know that his sons are doomed to death, that his broad lands shall pass away to the stranger, and that his race shall come to an end." The Brahan Seer then went into the tar to his death.

Many generations later a deaf and dumb Mackenzie chief came along. He had four sons. Among his contemporaries were the Chisholm of Chisholm, who was hairlipped; the Laird of Gairloch, who was bucktoothed; a half-witted Grant, who was laird as well; and the stammering Laird of Raasay. The four Mackenzie sons died before their father, and with him the line was extinguished forever.

A final word on the predictions of the Brahan Seer; one of his prophecies has yet to materialize.

The ancient proprietors of the soil shall give place to strange merchant proprietors, and the whole Highlands will become one deer forest; the whole country will be so utterly desolated and depopulated that the crow of a cock will not be heard north of the DRUIM-UACHDAIR; the people will emigrate to islands now unknown, but which shall yet be discovered in the boundless oceans, after which the deer and other wild animals in the huge wilderness shall be exterminated and drowned by horrid black rains.





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