

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

It is with deep regret that we must report that Mrs. Agnes MacRae Morton passed away in late April.

Mrs. Morton and Mr. Donald F. MacDonald were the co-founders of the Grandfather Mountain's Highland Games and Gathering of the Clans, staging the first Games and Gathering on Grandfather Mountain on Sunday, 19 August 1956. Mrs. Morton served as Secretary-Treasurer from the beginning until her retirement in 1980.

Mrs. Morton's contributions to the preservation of our Scottish Heritage is unmatched by any other in the Scottish Community and her guidance and counsel will be missed.



BOOST BUCHANANS!

A hearty hello to all Clansmen in the N.E.! Hope all of you are defrosted by now and shaking the moth balls from your kilt and preparing plans for the grrrrrand summer of Scottish Fun.

June 26th - Saturday our first Buchanan Gathering in Maine at our home on 45 River Road, Newcastle, Maine. Bring your own-dram (BYOB) and covered dish. 4:30 p.m. - Slides on Scotland and Bagpiper if possible. RSVP. -- For info call 207-563-5016 or write. Buchanan Clan Members and Family.

July 5th - Norwalk, Conn. (Round Hill Games) we need a convener!

July 16th - Emerald-Thistle Tartan Ball near Trenton, Maine. Major Thom White, Box 169, Trenton, Maine 04605 for info on Ball and Scottish Games.

July 17-18 Acadian Scottish Festival - 3rd Annual - Trenton, Maine.

Aug. 14th - Saint Andrew's Society of Maine - 4th Annual Games. Beautiful Thomas Pt. Beach - 1 mile from Cooks Corner, Brunswick, Maine. Please meet at 4:30 BYOB after Games - at Buchanan Tent Short meeting - Bagpiper - we can dine together at New Meadows Inn. RSVP.

Aug. 21st - Saint Andrew's Society of Vermont Scottish Games at gorgeous Quechee, Vermont. Meet at Buchanan Tent - BYOB and dine at Quechee Gorge Restaurant. RSVP.

Sept 18-19 Loon Mtn, N.H. a BIG Scottish Affair - please meet at Buchanan Tent 4:30 p.m. BYOB - dine at Mountaineer Motel, Lincoln, N.H. RSVP.

The Buchanan Clan needs a Convener for Vermont and Conn. to assist us at the Games and to represent your state. There is a SERIOUS need for a Convener from New York - there are about 5 Games - It would be a big boost for Buchanans..July 10 Ticonderoga, N.Y., July 17th Glen Falls Adirondacks, N.Y., Aug. 14th Syracuse, N.Y.,

Sept. 4th Altamont, N.Y. You can volunteer for just one of these Games also. We will send you a packet of instructions. Contact Jean Armour Hunt, Box 45, River Road, Newcastle, Maine 04553. (207) 563-5016.

WE ARE MISDATED - NOVEMBER 1ST SHOULD START THE NEW YEAR

The Celtic League American Branch claims that our calendar year should run from November 1st to October 31st - not from January 1st to December 31st. And they have created, and are promoting and selling, for the second year, a "Celtic Calendar" that is so dated.

"Custom, tradition, folklore - all support the authenticity of our calendar," says the Celtic League. The Celts based their year, not on the Julian or Gregorian years as the English or French do, but on their ancient culture and agrarian way of life, as do the Jews or Chinese. The Celtic Calendar, which starts with November 1, 1981 and runs to October 31st, 1982, gives special attention to four quarterly "feasts", each of which represents a different phase of the pastoral year. These four feasts are still celebrated in varying degrees and in various ways the Celtic nations of Scotland, Brittany, Wales, Ireland, Cornwall and the Isle of Mann.

The most important of these four feasts is "Samhain", which begins the Celtic year. The holiday we celebrate today as Halloween had its origins in Samhain. This feast, which signaled the end of one pastoral year and the beginning of another, represented the struggle of growth and abundance versus blight and scarcity. Bonfires in the center of Celtic villages symbolized the sun and were lit to aid the powers of growth, powers that are still represented by the mistletoe and evergreen. From this central bonfire, all the fires of the village were re-kindled to signify the start of the New Year.

The powers of blight and scarcity were regarded as evil, supernatural forces from the "Otherworld", and sacrifices of animals were made to keep these hostile elements at bay. Throughout the Celtic world, riotous processions took place, with the participants dressed in the skins of the sacrificial animals. Thus began the tradition of dressing in costumes for Halloween. Another surviving tradition is the jack-o-lantern, originally carved from a turnip, now carved from a pumpkin.



HIGHLIGHTS OF SCOTTISH HISTORY



Scotland divides into three parts; the Highlands, the Central Lowlands and the Southern Uplands. The Highlands generally lie north of a line stretching from the coast of Kincardineshire to the firth of Clyde. The Southern Uplands is south of a line drawn from Dunbar southwesterly to Girvan. The area between these lines form the Central Lowlands.

The Highlands are remarkable for their glens and mountains. Many of the latter towering over 4000 feet. The best known range is the Granpian which is separated from those further north by Glenmore or the Great Glen of Scotland. This majestic waterfilled cut stretches across the country from sea to sea and comprises a series of lakes and the Caledonian Canal. The legendary Loch Ness is a part of this Great Glen.

Palaeozoic rocks predominate in Scotland. The Highlands consist of gneiss, quartzites and crystalline schists. The Central Lowlands contain Old Red Sandstone, carboniferous and Permian strata. Here too, are vast deposits of coal and iron. Rocks of the Silurian Age abound in the Southern Uplands.

Scotland emerged from prehistoric obscurity during the Roman occupation of Britain. It is possible that the earliest inhabitants were non-Aryan races resembling the Iberians, now typified by the Basques. Celtic and Aryan peoples seem to have invaded and gained predominance over the non-Aryan. This combination was in being at the time the Romans invaded. The Romans called the country north of the Clyde and Forth estuaries - Caledonia, and named its inhabitants - Caledonians. In the southern part of Scotland were the Britons, another Celtic race of the same blood as the Welsh.

At the beginning of the 6th Century, descendants of the Caledonians were called Picts and were the predominant group in North Britain. At this time, a colony of Dalriads or Scots from Ireland, settled in Argyll and gradually spread throughout the surrounding areas. The Scots - a Celtic and Gaelic speaking people - gave Scotland its name. Pictish tribes were divided into two groups: the "Piccardach" (southern) and the "Cruithne" (northern). In the 9th century, the Scots and the Cruithne's joined forces and conquered the Piccardachs. However, the Cruithne's ancestors of the modern Highlands elected to remain independent from all others. Prior to this, in the 4th Century, Teutonic bands from North Germany settled south of the Firth of Forth. Later this area was brought into the Anglican Kingdom of Northumbria which reached from the Forth to the Humber. The kingdom of Cumbria of Strathclyde, inhabited by Romanized Britons extended from Dumbarton to Solway and into England.

In mid-9th century, Kenneth MacAlpin, son of the ruler of the Scots at Galloway and of a Pictish Mother, united the Picts and the Scots. His kingdom was comprised of Argyle, Perth Angus, Mearns and Fife, in Central Scotland, the Capital was at Scone. The reigns of Kenneth and his successors through MacBeth were ones of constant warfare with Norsemen, the Britons of Strathclyde, and the English of Northumbria. When Malcolm Canmore rose to the throne in 1058, after the death of MacBeth, the purely Celtic rule came to an end.

Sir William Wallace disputed the claim of Edward I to the Scottish throne. Soon after Robert Bruce won independence for Scotland and his throne in a decisive battle at Bannockburn in 1314. Years later, his successor, Robert Stewart lost his crown to the Duke of Albany who had starved to death the eldest son of the king. Another son, James, fled to France, but was assassinated near Perth upon his return in 1424. His son, James II, succeeded him, but he too was killed by an exploding cannon at the siege of Roxburgh Castle. James III became King at seven years of age. His inglorious reign ended with his murder in the house of a miller. Brave James IV began his reign in 1488. However, he was slain at the battle of Flodden and James V, an infant of under two years, became King. He died in 1542 and was succeeded by his daughter, the celebrated Mary, Queen of Scots (Mary Stuart). She was succeeded by her son, James, who in 1603 became King of England upon the death of Elizabeth I. Thus it was that the two kingdoms were finally united into a single monarchy. In 1707 the Parliaments of the two kingdoms were united. The chief

provisions of this act of union were:

The two kingdoms were united under the name Great Britain.

The succession to the crown should be the Electress, Sophia of Hanover and her heirs (they were Protestant).

Sixteen Scottish Peers and 45 Scottish members of the House of Commons be elected to the Parliament sitting in London.

Scotland's established Presbyterian Church be maintained.

Scotland retained her laws and customs regarding property and private rights.

All rights of free trade, free intercourse and citizenship were to be the same for both Scottish and English subjects.



THE GENEALOGICAL CORNER

The following pedigrees were received for filing in the Archives.

Jacquelyn Jane Johnston Cannon of Dunwoody, Georgia, descended from John Buchanan of County Antrim, Northern Ireland.

Norman Ralph Peters of Washington, D.C., whose great, great, great Aunt Susan Warren, born 15 February 1849 in Maryland, married James Buchanan.

There are now over 22 pedigrees filed in the archives.

This is the beginning of a valuable genealogical source. If you have worked up nothing of your genealogy please submit a copy to: Rowland S. Wilson
3011 34th St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008



FRIENDS OF LOCH LOMOND

The objectives of the Society are "to cherish, protect and enhance the natural beauty, amenity and character of Loch Lomond, its islands and the surrounding countryside".

Many of the Clan Buchanan members who toured Scotland with the Society last year are aware of the remarkable work of this group in their efforts to preserve the beauty of Loch Lomond which, of course, includes the ancient Buchanan lands.