

NABELICH

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CLAN BELL INTERNATIONAL
24th Year of Publication

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 2
APRIL— JUNE 2010



The Beinn Bhreagh Records Another Alexander Graham Bell Study Resource

by Ray Bell

Beinn Bhreagh (beautiful mountain, in Scots Gaelic) is the name that Alexander Graham Bell gave his summer estate in Baddeck, Nova Scotia. The *Beinn Breagh Records* is also the name of a compilation of extensive information pertinent to Bell heritage study.

In the last issue of our newsletter, CBI member, Martin Bell from Nova Scotia submitted an announcement that Highway 105 in that province had been renamed *The Mabel and Alexander Graham Way*. In that same time period, another CBI member, Tim Freeman, submitted information about a website devoted to Alexander Graham Bell. It seemed like the planets were aligning for a purpose...perhaps it was time to pay tribute to Alexander Graham Bell

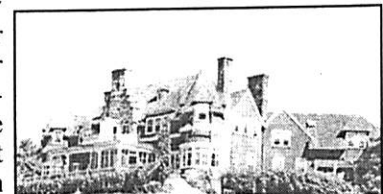
One of the most popular research books offered in the Clan Bell Store, is *The Bells of St. Andrews*, a compilation of births and deaths from the St. Andrews Parish of Scotland and compiled by Alexander Graham Bell. Coincidentally, Ward Ginn had gathered the data from the *Beinn Bhreagh Records* (see page 4) well before the Bell Family History website was created.

In an internal memo entitled, "*Against All Odds*," President William Bell detailed many of the obstacles that stood in the way of Clan Bell's survival. History reveals that even after the turmoil and unceasing warring of the "reiver" centuries, and even after some semblance of order took place along the borders, struggles and hardships were not to be denied their prominent place in our Bell history. Scottish Borders became overpopulated and the people were poverty stricken. Yet, thankfully, in the centuries that followed, Bells prevailed and heroes emerged.

Modern-day Bells can take pride that it was a Bell who, because of his achievements, has probably the most recognized name of any person who left the shores of Scotland in more modern times. Alexander Graham Bell's contributions to mankind go considerably beyond inventing the telephone. We have high-



lighted significant parts of his life, in this article. On the internet, there are videos and a wealth of information detailing many aspects of Alexander Graham Bell's life, his technological contributions and even his personal letters. An enjoyable and very educational evening or afternoon is in store for the curious CBI members who embark on the journey. The real treat is for those who can physically make the trip to Baddeck, Nova Scotia to visit the Bell property and the museum created in his honor.



Beinn Bhreagh, Alexander Graham Bell's summer residence in Baddeck, Nova Scotia province of Canada

Continued on Page 4



Clan Bell International

Clan Bell International (CBI) is a charitable, non-profit organization of Scottish descendants and friends of Clan/Family Bell, organized to study Bell (in its various spellings) genealogy, Scottish history and culture, and to perpetuate family tradition, as it relates to our Scottish heritage.

No officer of CBI, whether elected or appointed, receives monetary compensation or other benefits, including tax benefits, in exchange for their services.

Annual dues for membership in CBI are payable at the time of joining, for new members; and on the anniversary month of membership for established members. Our dues are \$20 for a Single membership or \$25 for a Family membership. An application form can be obtained by either contacting our Membership Secretary (see page 15) or visiting our website and selecting the "Membership" link on the front page.

The Newsletter, NABELICH

"Na Belich" is Scots Gaelic for "The Bells"

NABELICH (Formerly, BELL-A-PEAL), the official newsletter of Clan Bell International, is published four times a year and is mailed free to members as one of several benefits of membership.

Contribution of articles or other information of interest to membership, including photographs, announcements and notices of birth, marriages or death, are welcomed and encouraged. To facilitate timely publication and delivery of the newsletter, members are requested to submit material for publication no later than March 15 for the First Quarter Issue; June 15 for the Second Quarter Issue; September 15 for the Third Quarter Issue; and December 15 for the Fourth Quarter Issue. All contributed information of value, including photographs, will be promptly returned at the request of the contributor. Contributions to the newsletter should be mailed to NABELICH, 1 Charleston, Ave, Unit 10, Londonderry, NH 03053; or email to: raybellprint@msn.com

Change of Address

When your address changes, please inform our Membership Secretary (see page 15) promptly by US Mail or by email. When the USPS cannot deliver to your previous address because you have moved and have not advised the membership secretary, the cost to CBI is \$1.05 to re-mail the newsletter to the correct address.

Copyright 1985-2010 Clan Bell International.
All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, for any personal or commercial use without written permission from Clan Bell International.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.clanbell.org



In this Issue

Beinn Bhreagh Records	1
President's Letter	3
Submitting an Article for NABELICH	5
From a Villa in Naples to a Poorhouse in New York	6
Our newsletter via E-mail	7
Was Blackethouse Tower Just One of Many Clan Bell Pele Towers?	8
Clan Bell at Spring Scottish Events	10
Norway, the New Scotland	12
A CBI Member's Way of Nurturing the Scots-American Culture	12
Book Review of Gertrude Bell's "The Desert and the Sown"	13
An Excellent Bell Study Guide, The Bell Omnibus CD Rom	13
Clan Bell Store	14
Clan Bell Officers	15
Bell-Kraus Wedding	15
A Time for Bells to Ponder	16

President's Message

Clan Bell International



On behalf of my family, I should like to thank all of you who have been so supportive during our time of mourning. Your care and consideration is very much appreciated.

Thanks to our hard-charging Vice President, Ward L. "Bud" Ginn, for his total effort to ease my burden by his writings and administrative decisions and actions.

Recent emails from some members have been most encouraging as they have indicated a high level of interest in their desire to promote the Clan. This raison d'être is always with your Board and, hopefully, with you. There are any number of ways to promote our "Brand" of Clan Bell.

First and foremost is the simple, but effective, word of mouth. When you meet another Bell, ask if they are knowledgeable of the Clan; are they members; do they attend Scottish Games. Be prepared to give them our web site address:
www.clanbell.org

Second, if possible, do attend Scottish Games and support the Clan Bell Tent Host. If there is no Clan Bell tent, consider becoming a tent host yourself. You would be surprised how many nice people you meet and how eager they are to hear of "their Clan." So bone up on our history. That knowledge is valuable in every day situations too.

Third, participate in submitting your Bell stories for publication in our newsletter. Our Editor is always on the lookout for interesting stories about Bells of Scottish descent, be they prominent or not. It is amazing where the name Bell pops up in various countries. Our forefathers really got around.

John L. Bruce Bell is working diligently to complete the petition for submission to the Lyon Court. I, personally, believe 2010 will be our year to see the Clan take a giant step forward toward the appointing of a chief of the Bells.

My personal best to you all. Thank you for your membership in the CBI.

Bill

Continued from page 1

A Sampling of Highlights of the Life of

Alexander Graham Bell

March 2, 1847 - August 2, 1922

Scientist, engineer, inventor innovator

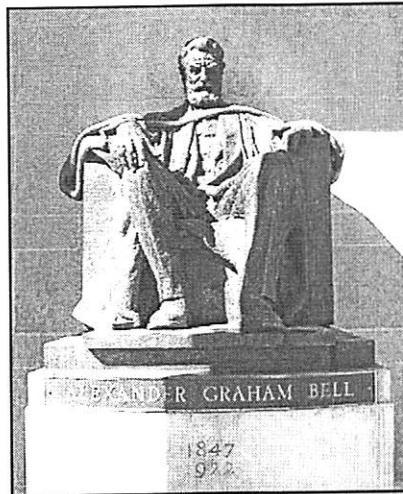
Bell's father, brother and grandfather had all been associated with elocution and speech, and both his mother and his wife were deaf, which profoundly influenced his life's work.

His early education years were not impressive...marked by absenteeism and lackluster grades. His interest was science and he treated other subjects with indifference.

After graduation he moved to London to be with his grandfather and in those years a love of learning was born. The Elder Bell taught young Alexander all the attributes to becoming a teacher himself.

At age 23, Bell traveled with family to Canada. After purchasing property, he set up a laboratory and continued experimenting with transmitting speech via electricity.

Bell became a professor of Vocal Physiology and Elocution at Boston University where he intensely pursued his experimentation with transmitting speech via electricity.



NOT ABE LINCOLN! This statue of Alexander Graham Bell, by A. E. Cleeve Horne, similar in style to the Lincoln Memorial, is located in the front portico of the Bell Telephone Building in the city of Brantford, Ontario, Canada

In 1875 Bell's work resulted in an acoustic telegraph and he drew up his patent application.

The range of Bell's inventions is only partially represented by the 18 patents granted in his name and 12 that he shared with his collaborators.

In 1892 Bell had begun experiments with motor powered, heav-

ier-than-air aircraft. He was a proponent of aerospace research.

At the conclusion of Bells funeral, every telephone on the continent was silenced in honor of the man who had given to mankind, the means for direct communication at a distance

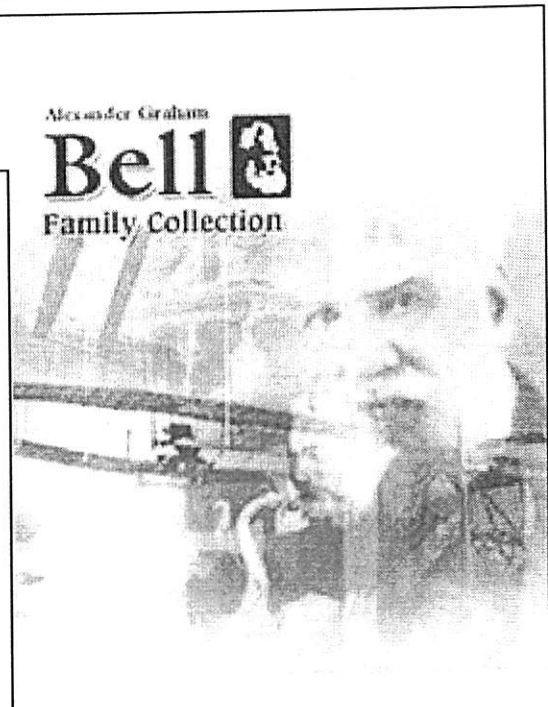
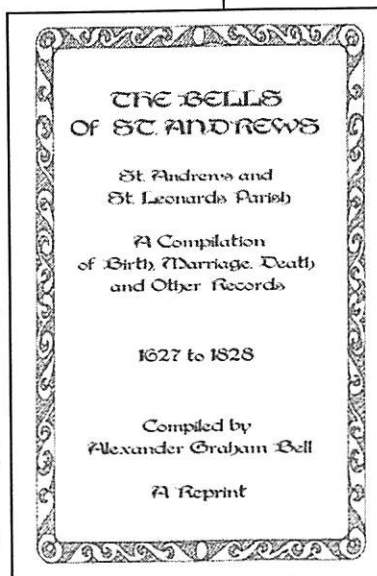
A large number of Alexander Graham Bell's writings, personal correspondence, notebooks papers and other documents reside at both the United States Library of Congress Manuscript Division (as the *Alexander Graham Bell Family Papers*), and at the Alexander Graham Bell Institute, Cape Breton University, Nova Scotia: major portions of which are available for online viewing.

With grateful appreciation we acknowledge CBI member, Tim Freeman, for bringing the Alexander Graham Bell Family Collection website to our attention; and to Alta Jean Ginn and Ward Ginn for supplying information for this article and for creating and publishing from the Beinn Bhreagh records, *The Bells of St. Andrews* research booklet for the Clan Bell Store.

Superimposed on the home page of the website: <http://bell.uccb.ns.ca/> is the very popular Clan Bell research book compiled by Alexander Graham Bell and available from our Clan Bell Store (Page 14)

CBI Vice President, Ward (Bud) Ginn discovered and obtained the *Beinn Bhreagh Records* documents over ten years ago. He felt that 84 pertinent pages from the document would be a valuable research booklet to have in our Clan Bell library, so he and his wife, Alta Jean Ginn keyed the data in "Word Perfect" and then created electronic files from which we now print the very popular booklet entitled, *The Bells of St. Andrews*. Bud has included a Foreword which he wrote, and he has also included photographs of Alexander Graham Bell sites which he shot during one of his visits to Edinburgh.

An excellent value and a MUST for Bell heritage researchers.



Submitting an Article for Publication in our Newsletter

by Ray Bell, Editor

Because this is the first time we have published any guidelines for submitting material for publication in the Clan Bell newsletter, I have sought and have received the approval of the following guideline information from our CBI President William H. Bell, and Vice President, Ward (Bud) Ginn, Jr.

Promoting our Bell of the Borders, Scots Heritage

Knowing that I had a background in producing literature for marketing and advertising, our Vice President, Bud Ginn invited me to serve as newsletter Editor when Jim and Fran Bell retired from the position in 2007.

It has been a gratifying job and I am very grateful for the many email, telephone and postal mail comments from members supporting our newsletter. Your taking the time to communicate, has helped me to refine the NABELICH message that we present to our membership. Right or wrong, I have made it my task to try to nurture and perpetuate the interest in our Clan and the passion and vitality that so many of our members share for our heritage.

Yes, we are indeed, a Border Clan...a Real Clan...and not merely a sept of another Clan.

That fact was such an enormously-important discovery in the 1980s. Centuries before any other clan began claiming that Clan Bell was but a sept of their clan, the Bell name was prominent as a "riding clan" on the Scots-Anglo borders. New members of CBI may not fully appreciate the diligence and tenacity that characterize the efforts over long periods of time, by our Clan President and other officers to accomplish the reinstatement of Clan Bell, which went into dormancy following the death of our Clan Chief in 1628.

Our Scottish heritage and specifically our Bell-of-the-Borders heritage is the very thrust of our organization. Although not every past newsletter article has reflected that editorial standard, as our Clan gets ever closer to naming a "Chief," we will be all the more diligent in our efforts to reinforce the core tenets of what we are as

an organization. I have considered it an honor to be involved with our newsletter and I have felt it my duty to guard against diluting our core message of promoting the Scottish aspect of our name.

We descend from border Bells. As a Clan Bell society, we cherish our Scottish heritage. We invite our membership to submit articles about their side of the Bells. As Bill Bell said in his President's Letter, submitted articles need not be about Bells of prominence. A story about your family of Bells might be very enlightening to another member who is perhaps struggling with his or her genealogy and your story could aid and inspire further research.

Popularity of the Bell name.

Through the ages, descendants of the Border Bells sometimes suffered an identity crisis because our Bell name has been so sought after and taken up by people of many races. Numerous groups have adopted the Bell name and it can be a difficult challenge determining if a certain lot of Bells are actually Scots. French LeBells from France and Canada have sometimes changed their name to Bell upon arrival in the United States, and the same has happened with the name, Bellisario of Italian origin. Except in rare cases, stories about non-Scottish Bells are of little interest to our Clan Bell newsletter. Unless there are unusual circumstances, such a story would probably not be covered. So we ask our members who wish to submit articles to do the necessary research to ascertain if the Bell or Bells being considered for the subject of a newsletter article are truly Bells of Scots origin. I've often used this fictitious scenario as an example: Jack E. Bell, whose original name was Jacob Bellinski, was a wonderful vaudeville entertainer and he donated millions of

dollars that he earned in show biz, to children's hospitals and other similar charities. However, if Jack (Jacob Bellinski) Bell was not really a Bell of Scottish descent, his incredible story would be of little to no interest to us and probably would not be included in our newsletter.

Articles about Living Bells

Except perhaps in a very rare circumstance, a living Bell and possibly a recently-passed Bell WILL NOT get editorial coverage UNLESS that Bell is a member of our organization. And, in any coverage of a CBI member, rarely would we print an article that focuses on his or her managing a massive bicycle factory, for example...or feature his or her excellence in hunting alligators barehanded. But, an article about how that member engages in activities that nurture the CBI organization or the Scottish-American culture, would be welcomed.

Suggestions for Articles

We sometimes receive suggestions that we publish an article on a particular celebrity Bell. If a CBI member has an idea for a newsletter article about a Bell of Scottish descent from the past, we invite that person to do the research and submit an article. Merely submitting a suggestion that NABELICH investigate a website or Wikipedia information, will probably not result in an article. We are a staff of one person.

Submitting Transcripts

Submitted text as hard copy will sit for a long time. Maybe forever. We must request that articles be submitted electronically.

Submitting Photographs

Photographs should not be mailed to us. We cannot take responsibility for damage or loss of precious and irreplaceable photographs. Have your photos scanned at 300 dpi and email them or have them downloaded onto a CD.

I welcome your comments and suggestions, always:
raybellprint@msn.com

From a Villa in Naples to a Poorhouse in New York

by Dennis N. Bell, CBI Canada Representative

Harriet De Forest Bell's improbable life story reads like scattered pages torn indiscriminately from a potboiler romance novel.

Harriet was a New York high-society matron — or at least a high-society pretender — in the last half of the 19th century and the first decade of the 20th. By 1905 she was drowned in a swirling tide of poverty. She was then 77 years old and flat broke, suffering from cataracts and crippling rheumatism, as well as mild senility. She was trying to look after a paranoid daughter who firmly believed she was a genuine English duchess and that her mother was trying to kill her with poison.

But worst of all were Harriet's sour memories of a failed marriage to a Wall Street broker who committed suicide following the Gold Panic of 1873. With many parallels to the current economic recession, the Panic was a financial debacle of major proportions that followed the U.S. Civil War. Financiers Jay Gould and Jay Fisk triggered it, with a failed attempt to corner the world gold market, setting off a world-wide juggernaut of bank runs, stock market crashes and corporate bankruptcies.

Not much is known about Harriet's early years, except that she was born somewhere in New York around 1827 was well-educated and very well-read. She claimed she inherited her maiden name from a socially prominent clan of moneyed relatives: "My family, the De Forests, are members of the French family of that name," she once told a New York Times reporter. However, when she was interviewed a few months later by a second Times reporter, she identified herself as "Harriet De Witt Bell," and her father as "Richard Isaac De Witt of Albany, New York," a colonel in the Revolutionary War. No proof of either

familial affiliation has been found.

Eventually, she married lawyer William James Bell, an up-and-comer who ramrodded a Wall Street brokerage firm named Bell, Courtney & Mills. Harriet and William got along famously in the first few years of their marriage, sharing an opulent lifestyle crowned by two daughters, Helen and Lucy. But as the years wore on, the luster of marriage dimmed considerably. Just before William's business began to collapse along with the rest of Wall Street, Harriet separated from her husband, rounded up her daughters and left the United States for Paris. Harriet became a language instructor in the French capital, supplementing the monthly child support remittances William sent her.

The remittances ceased with William's suicide, and the three Bell women relocated to Naples, Italy, where Harriet rented a fashionable villa known as "Plaza Satriana." The villa was frequently jammed with visiting American acquaintances and Harriet claimed she became friendly with members of the Italian royal family during her 23 years in Naples. She said the ruling Italian royals, including King Victor Emmanuel, visited her home often, showering her with gifts, mainly valuable laces and dresses which she never wore and carefully sequestered away as keepsake treasures. By her own admittance, Harriet had no sense of financial management and the money flowed out as quickly as it came in.

"Both my daughters were educated in the College Miracolo," Harriet later recalled. "They had the best of educations that the institution could give. Its curriculum is the finest in Italy. Lucy afterward taught in that college, but — her health failing — she resigned. Later, however, she accepted a professorship in the Royal College of Maria Pia in Naples, where

many of the daughters of the nobles of Italy are educated."

Harriet said Lucy held the professorship for 8 1/2 years, until she began experiencing serious mental health problems once again. This time, Harriet packed her off to New York in 1894, hoping the return to her homeland would provide some relief to a daughter severely stricken with mental and emotional aberrations. "I learned that upon her arrival she had grown worse, and I immediately followed," Harriet said later. "I found her condition such that I had her examined (by psychiatrists). They have now declared her insane."

All of this unfolded with Lucy claiming that she was England's rightful "Duchess of Hungerford," and refusing to eat, insisting that her mother was poisoning her food. "Lucy's ravings and declarations that she is the Duchess of Hungerford are not entirely untrue," Harriet told the New York Times. "My husband William James Bell had a grandmother who was a granddaughter of the Duchess of Hungerford. So certain were some friends of my husband that he could push his claim to the title and the estate that they tried to induce him to bring suit against the Crown of England. He lost his entire wealth during the Gold Panic, and though he wished to commence the suit, he also lost his health. Lucy used to say that she had been able to trace the family ancestry back to the time of the Carolingians. These are the causes of Lucy's claim to a high name."

Despite her sturdy defense of Lucy, it was, after all, on Harriet's application that the daughter was first shipped to Bellevue Mental Hospital on Aug. 4, 1894. Lucy was thoroughly screened by two Bellevue psychiatrists, who said the woman was very definitely insane and ordered her committed

to the New York City Asylum For The Insane on Ward's Island, between Queens and Manhattan in the East River. Ward's Island was once home to a cotton mill around the time of the War of 1812. Later in the 19th century it became a dumping ground for whatever New Yorkers wanted to unload, including people alive or dead. Many thousands of bodies were dug up in the city and relocated to the island when two very old cemeteries at Madison Square and Bryant Park were slotted for redevelopment, making way for new structures such as Madison Square Garden. The island also had an immigration station that preceded Ellis Island, and a State Emigrant Refugee hospital that housed sick and destitute immigrants.

Harriet hated the idea of Lucy being confined in an asylum. She hired a lawyer, went to the New York Supreme Court and won a writ of habeas corpus to get Lucy out of Ward's Island. She tried to drum up financial support from other unidentified family members for placing Lucy in a private asylum, but it is not known whether she had any success.

While all of this was going on, Harriet herself became a target. When the mother and daughter returned from Europe, they rented an apartment at 519 East Fifteenth Street in New York. Harriet managed to scrape together a living with sewing and other craftwork for several years, though her new existence was a far cry from the halcyon days of hobnobbing with royalty in Naples. What little resources Harriet had brought home from Italy quickly evaporated. The cataracts and the rheumatism slowly ruined her ability to earn a living by sewing. She became destitute and on July 19, 1904 found herself out on the street with all her possessions at age 77.

Her furniture and belongings were unceremoniously heaped on the sidewalk and for two days and two nights she personally guarded it all, sleeping outdoors on a couch. Among her possessions were the valuable Italian laces and

dresses she had collected from her admirers in Naples. A New York City policeman found what he described as "an aged and poorly clad woman who says that her name is Harriet De Witt Bell" sick and shivering outside her former home. Harriet regaled him with stories of how she had been evicted. But other residents of the apartment block told the police officer a totally different story. They said Harriet had not been evicted, but had decided on her own to vacate the apartment and had all her possessions moved to the street, herself.

While guarding her furniture, Harriet caught a respiratory infection and the policeman had her taken to Bellevue Hospital for treatment. She was examined there by the ever-present psychiatrists, diagnosed as slightly senile and released the next day. In the meantime, her furnishings had been seized by New York City's delightfully named "Bureau of Incumbrances," and stored in a warehouse. She headed down to the warehouse and liberated her precious Italian treasures, but not much else. She complained bitterly that her furniture had been handled roughly and badly damaged by Incumbrances Bureaucratic bunglers, but got nowhere.

As an indignant indigent, she had nowhere to go. That left only one option -- the Women's Alms House on Blackwell's Island (now known as Roosevelt Island), in the East River just south of the Ward's Island insane asylum where her daughter was being warehoused. Harriet bundled up her Italian scarves, laces and dresses and headed for the poorhouse.

And here the story comes to a crunching halt -- with a lot of very loose ends. Was Harriet De Forest Bell for real, and whatever became of her? Was she a De Witt or a De Forest before she became a Bell? All we know is that the New York chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution met in Syracuse a few months later, and drummed up a small fund to help her out.

And what became of Lucy De Forest Bell? Did she ever regain her sanity? It is probable that her sibling Helen Bell died in Europe before the mother and surviving daughter returned to New York. But no one knows for sure. And there are indications that Helen ran away from home in Naples and was never seen again by any member of the family.

We may never know the entire Harriet De Forest Bell story. And that's a crying shame.

Our Newsletter Via E-Mail



A number of our members are receiving the Clan Bell International newsletter, NABELICH, via their email addresses on the very day that the file is delivered to the printer. This gives them the advantage of receiving their copy of the newsletter at least two weeks before those who are receiving the newsletter via US Mail. Additionally, these members have the option of printing the file themselves (8 1/2 x 11) and are also enjoying seeing the pictures, when available, in color.

If you are not presently receiving our electronic newsletter and wish to be added to this distribution list, please notify Alta Ginn at aginn@cox.net.

Was Blackethouse Tower Just One of Many Clan Bell Pele Towers?

by Ray Bell

The warlike habits of the clan, and the wild character of that age, are very clearly proved by the number of Towers or Peels belonging to the lairds of the name Bell, with which that district was studded.

From *The Bell Family*, published by Scotpress

The above sentence is referring to the mid-to-late 1500s in the West Marche district of the Scots-Anglo border. These words appeared in a book that was published initially in the 19th century. When I first read this intriguing

sentence, I immediately underlined it because it confirmed to me,

something that I had long thought to be true: **that Clan Bell had to have possessed more pele towers than just Blackethouse.** Otherwise, it seems unlikely that they would have achieved the prominence that history indicates.

The Bell Clan was known as one of the major border reiver riding clans. They were a prominent people, with lairds and a chief. They were well known for their excellent fighting skills. They were also known to have owned cattle numbering in the hundreds and horses and sheep, in the thousands. The Bells were a

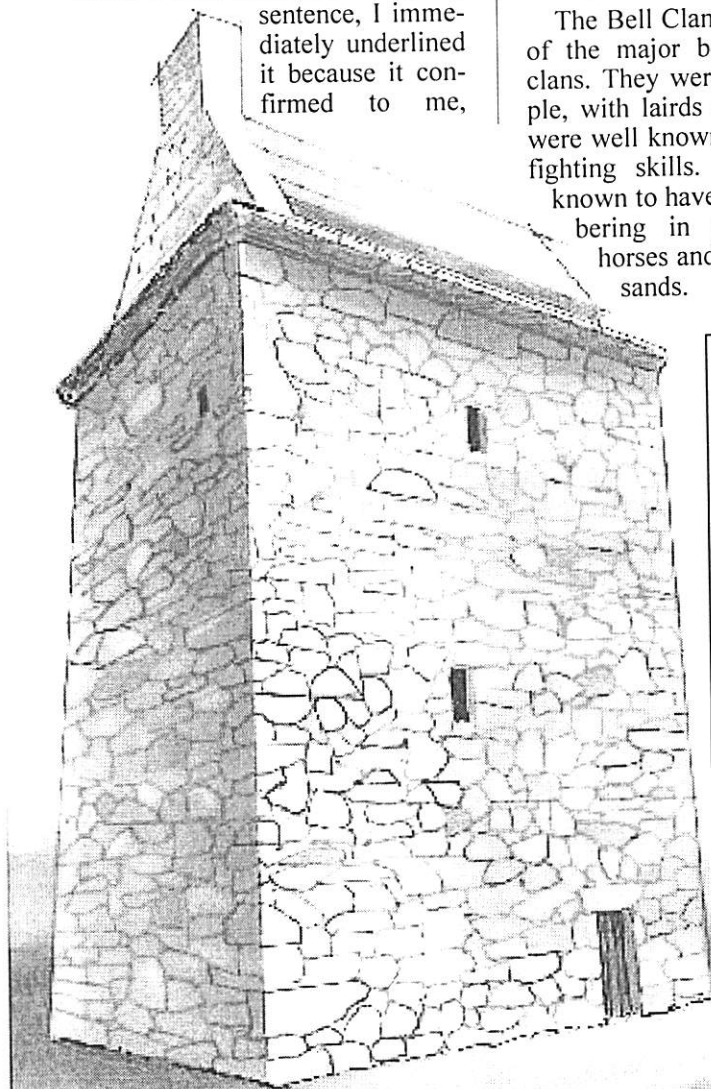
clan that was often right in the middle of the ongoing disruptions on the borders during the turbulent “reiver” centuries

It doesn't seem like a stretch of the imagination to state that Clan Bell of the borders constructed multiple peels or pele towers. Without good bases of operation, the Bells couldn't have functioned as they did, gaining the respect of other border clans, and drawing attention from the government. Indeed, it is very plausible that Blackethouse was but one of a number of Bell strongholds built along the Kirtle valley and close enough to one another so that any one Bell tower that was about to experience the wrath of an English army or an unfriendly clan could easily alert all the other Clan Bell towers. This was done by lighting signal fires in metal baskets which were standard equipment, on the roof of every pele tower. If one Bell fortress came under attack, a blazing signal fire would have been quickly made in the roof basket, and within minutes, all the Bells in the valley would be alerted to the impending danger.

Pele towers were essentially fortified homes for one family...the family

Artist's conceptual sketch of Clan Bell pele towers reported to have stood along the West Marche's Kirtle Valley. Pele towers were built close enough to each other so that signal fires on the roofs could warn the other Bells of an impending attack.

The closeness is exaggerated in the sketch.



of a laird or clan leader. Such structures were far beyond the means of the rank and file borderer family.

Because pele towers were built for clan leaders, they became targets. The Bells, like other border reiver clans, built their pele fortresses so as to withstand the sieges of English armies and whatever clan might be their enemy on a given day. The walls of pele towers ranged from 4- to 15-feet thick, which made them nearly impregnable. When a clan was about to be attacked, the rank and file clans people would flock to the tower to help in its defense. The massive structure provided for their own protection as well.

The Blackethouse tower's three-story design was very common for pele towers. Some, however, were four and five stories, resulting in a height of fifty and more feet. A large basement area with vaulted ceilings was for the animals and especially the horses, which were of utmost importance militarily, for they were necessary for the retaliatory attacks on invaders. Upon learning of impending danger of a raid, the landowner would drive his cattle and horses into the protected area beneath the tower and bolt the heavy doors. Access to the living quarters from the basement animal quarters was through a trap door which could be secured by bolting.

The ground-level floor was often used for storage. The second story was the family's living quarters where a large fireplace provided both

warmth and a means for cooking. Bedrooms were on the third story. In the event, intruders were able to gain entry, the narrow stairways were constructed to give the advantage to right-handed defenders, by winding upward in a counter-clockwise configuration.

A narrow, single entrance to the tower was a doorway wide enough for only one man. A heavy, double-door limited the access by intruders. The inner door was often heavy studded oak and the outer door was constructed of metal rods. Windows were rare in the construction of pele towers although the second and third stories had narrow slits sufficient for defending clan archers or gunmen, but so narrow as to make access impossible, even when a siege included scaling ladders.

In addition to the massive walls of the pele tower, an exterior wall, (not shown in the sketch) called a "barmkin," 3 feet thick, and up to 16-feet high, was often constructed to encircle the tower. The rank and file clans people lived in very primitive hovels outside the barmkin. Those simple dwellings were literally trampled flat during a raid but could be rebuilt in a day.

Unfortunately for archeologists and students of history, many pele towers were ordered dismantled by King James I, after the Scots and English Crowns were joined in the early 17th century. The barbaric ever-warring atmosphere ceased, and with no further need for massive, ruggedly-built fortress homes, the stones from the dismantled pele towers were used to build mansions, stone walls and structures with modern utilitarian value.

REFERENCES

The Bell Family, Scotpress Originally published as part of *The Scottish Nation* or, *The Surnames, Families, Literature, Honours and Biographical History of the People of Scotland*, by William Anderson

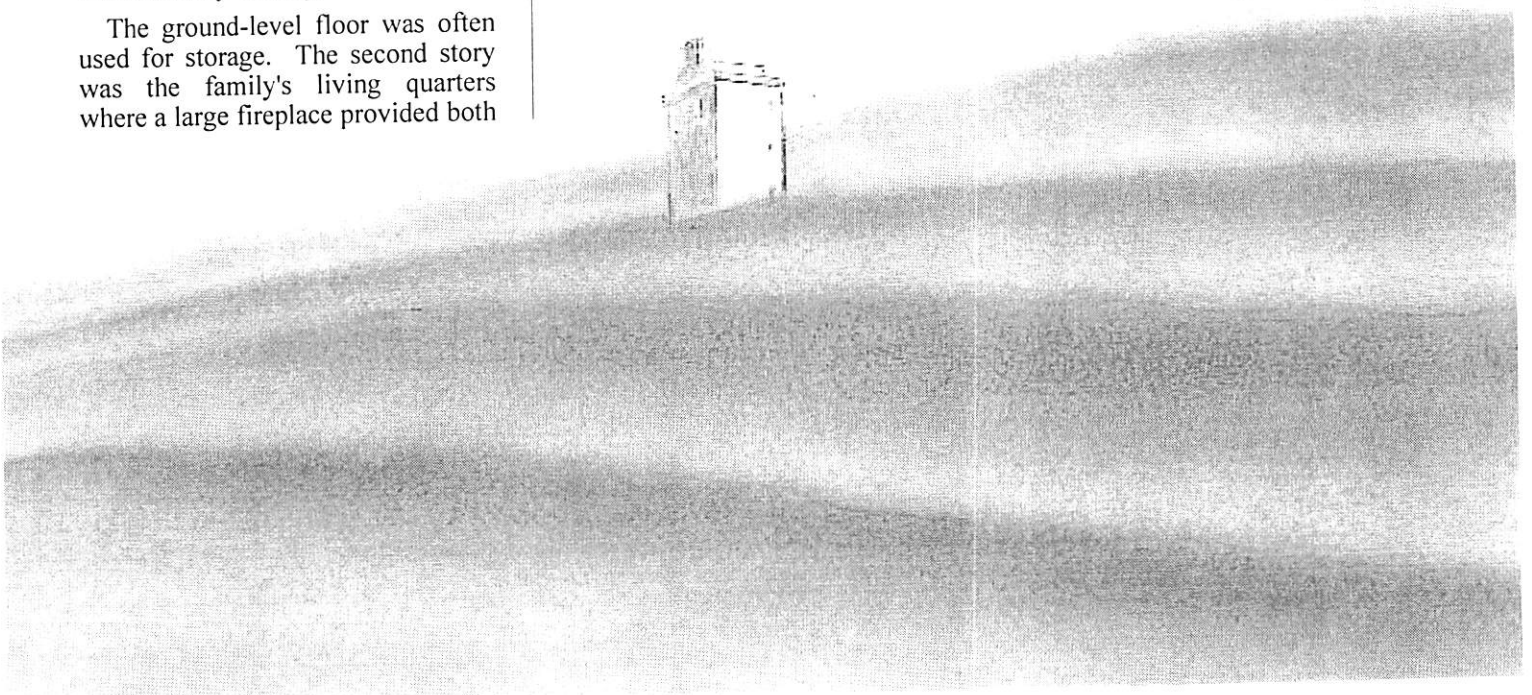
The Scottish Border Reivers an historical discussion by Charlie Bell, former CBI Commissioner for Mississippi

The Steel Bonnets, by George MacDonald; Frazer; published by, Harper Collins.

Reivers, by Keith Durham and Angus McBride; published by Moonlight Publications

From the Web:
"Pele Towers of the Anglo-Scots Border" by Thomas William Moss

Battle of Kirtle @ Carothers-Carruthers.com



Clan Bell at Spring Scottish Events

Tartan Day at Ardenwood Farm

by Kent Bell,
CBI Commissioner for California

The East Bay Scottish Society sponsors this annual event which is held at the historical Ardenwood Farm. It is now an educational working farm vary near the San Francisco Bay in the City of Fremont. This was the first time we attended the Tartan Day Celebration at Ardenwood. Even though it is only about thirty minutes up the highway from our house, I showed up a little early to set up the Clan Bell Tent amongst the spattering of rain drops. Ah, a little Scottish weather never hurt anybody. Although the rain abated, the sun was never to be seen this day. Once everybody settled into their Clan Tents, it was time for a Parade led by a real smart local Police Color Guard, followed by the Clans and some other visitors to the event.

At the Clan Bell Tent we have attracted our fair share of interesting guests, but here at Ardenwood we had some visitors from a near by forest. In the photo at right our own Kyla Bell is making her new Griffin friend feel welcome. Later in the day we had another visitor that took a liking to one of our displays. It almost broke my

heart when I had to inform him, all that was in the BELL's Scotch bottle was colored water. We simply couldn't risk using the original ingredient around a fire-breathing dragon for fear of a flare up, especially since I hadn't opted for fire insurance, when I registered Clan Bell for the Tartan Day event.

Texas Scottish Festival and Highland Games

by Ken Bell, CBI Commissioner for Texas and Oklahoma

The Texas Scottish Festival and Highland Games was held Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 4, 5 and 6 on the Campus of the University of Texas in Arlington at the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex area.

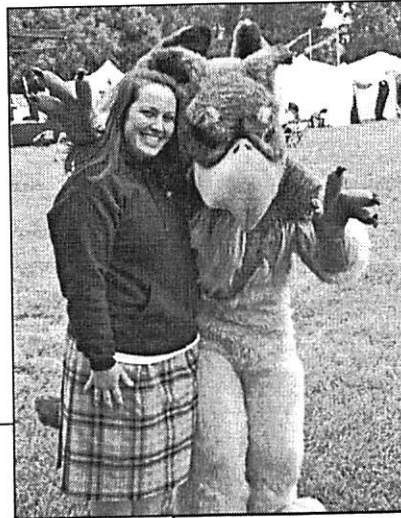
It was sunny for the whole weekend and typically-hot June

weather in North Texas. Clan Bell was again listed as a Sponsor of the games. The Clan Bell tent hosting this year, was done by John Bell of Huntsville Texas, John and Jeannie Beall of Frisco, Texas and Texas Games Commissioner, Ken Bell with his wife, Gail Bell.

The official opening of the Games was Friday night with each clan parading into the Maverick Stadium and being introduced by Scottish Balladeer, Alex Beaton. In the Parade of Clans, the Clan Bell group was led by the North Texas Caledonian Pipes & Drums Band into the stadium and past the stands filled with cheering, enthusiastic onlookers.

The Texas Highland Games are noted for a full complement of Scottish and Celtic musical groups and a very large contingent of Scottish Heavy Athletics competitors: both amateur and professional

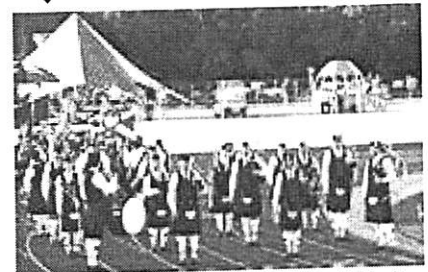
Close to 100 visitors stopped by the Clan Bell tent with several enrolling as new members of CBI. The Clan Bell group discussed plans for a Clan gathering prior to a local Burns Supper in January.



TARTAN DAY: Strange, but interesting, visitors dropped by the Clan Bell tent.

Above: Kyla Bell poses with a winged griffin she has befriended.

Left: Fortunately, the fire-breathing dragon found only colored water in the BELL's Scotch Bottle that he snatched from the Clan Bell tent.



U. of Texas Maverick Stadium: With the Clan Bell tent in the background, one of the several outstanding Pipes & Drums marching bands performs for the large crowd.



The Scottish Heavy Athletics are always hugely popular at the Texas Games. The audience is treated to outstanding, often "world-class," performances.

New Hampshire Indoor Scottish Festival

Concord NH April 19

by Ray Bell

Although attendance wasn't as large this year, it was a fine day of Competitions: Scots Dance, individual piping and drumming and pipe & drum bands. After the long winter, it was great to once again experience the soul stirring sound of pipes and drums nearly blasting out the walls of the New Hampshire Technical Institute.

Clan Bell was the only Clan to take an ad in the festival program and the only clan to have table space in the gymnasium.

Commissioner Notes

Wayne Miller Named Temporary Commissioner and Rejoins The Army of Clan Bell Tent Hosts

We are sorry to report that John Bell our CBI Commissioner for Georgia will be inactive in the role for awhile because John's wife, Rose, has suffered medical challenges. We send our prayers and best wishes for Rose's speedy and complete recovery.

We are very grateful for Wayne's dedication. He had retired as a CBI Commissioner after he and his wife Mary had hosted Clan Bell tents for ten years, they have jumped in once again to run the Bell tent at the Stone Mountain Games.

Kent Bell Joins Team to Bring Back California's Campbell Highland Games

Our California Commissioner Kent Bell has become a committee member to bring back the Campbell Highland Games in California. As a result of the poor economy, the games ceased to exist three years ago, after a lengthy 30 year success record. Kent and the rest of the committee are committed to revitalizing the popular event.

NO TIME TO REST

by Karissa Beals,
CBI Commissioner for Oregon



The very popular Scottish-Celtic Band, "Molly's Revenge," assists in fundraisers for Oregon's Scottish Festivals. L to R: Stuart Mason, John Weed, David Brewer, and Pete Haworth

This "Scottish season" here in Oregon started out quite normally with setting up our Clan Bell tent at the Albany and Eugene Scottish Festivals in April and in May.

But unlike previous years, those of us on the steering committee for the Eugene Scottish Festival did not quite get the chance to wind-down from the stresses of organizing this year's event, or even bask in the success of this year's festival, because a mere four days after the completion of our May 15th festival here in Eugene, I got this request: "I'm emailing you to see if you and the [Eugene] Scottish Society might be interested in putting together a concert with Molly's Revenge in July?" from Co-founder, Pete Haworth, of that very same Southern California based band. So now I find myself producing my second concert of 2010 - both as fundraisers for our local Scottish festival.

How can I resist such an offer! What a treat! If any of you out there have seen the movie "Titanic" and remember the party band playing down in steerage, well Molly's Revenge plays that same wonderfully fast-paced style of Scottish/Irish music. And they are exceptionally good at it!

I got to know the members of Molly's Revenge a few years back when the group I was Highland dancing with, was performing at many of the same Highland games and festivals here in Oregon that they were.

As you may have read in the Volume 24, Issue 1 of the Nabelich newsletter, I was able to borrow the talents of the Molly's Revenge Co-founder, David Brewer, to play with our fabulous local musicians, Rebecca Lomnicky and Peter Willis in our festival's fundraising concert back on January 3rd, but due to logistics, I've never been able to book the complete band of Molly's Revenge for any events connected with our festival - until now.

What a fabulous opportunity to be able to have Molly's Revenge assist us with a little fundraising for our 2011 festival, and to also have them all to ourselves on July 8th, for an evening of exceptional musical fun to boot! I'm like a kid-in-a-candy-store at the prospect!

By the way, my favorite song by Molly's Revenge is a song called "Courtin' in the Kitchen" and the main character in that song's story is one *Henrietta BELL*.

NOT DING-DONG BELLS (Editor's Note) The ancient and often feared and revered name of CLAN BELL of the Borders of Scotland, comes from the Norman (French) word "bel" which means "fair" or "handsome." If your surname is Bell and you recall as a child, other children tauntingly calling you, "Ding-Dong Bell," you had every right to deck the perpetrator of such rude and insensitive conduct.

Continued on page 12

Norway, The New Scotland

by Ray Bell

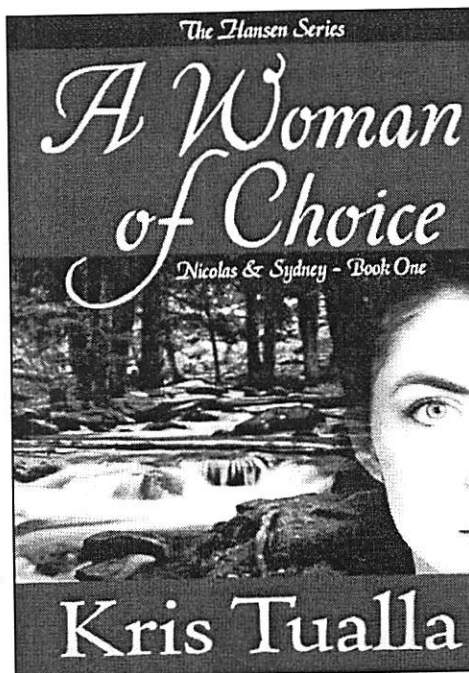
Kristin Tualla, CBI member and author of romance novels, draws upon her Clan Bell heritage for her ongoing success in publishing

When Kris started writing her series of romance novels in 2006, she wanted to go in a different direction from the highly overcrowded and fanciful "kilted warrior" market. But she wasn't willing to ignore her own heritage, so while her heroes are all members of the fictional Hansen family of Arendal, Norway - up to now, the heroines are all Scots. In homage to the Bell clan, she has given them the name - or use of it.

"Norway, the new Scotland," has been the very successful tagline/attention grabber that Kris uses when she communicates with the editors and agents. In her newest book, *"A Woman of Choice,"* releasing on September 8, 2010, a Bell lassie from Kentucky finds herself in Missouri in 1819. She is viciously betrayed and abandoned by her unfaithful husband. She is rescued by a widower uninterested in love. In desperation, she becomes engaged to his best friend. One woman, three very different men. Life is about choices.

A New Scottish Borders Novel

In email conversation with Kris, we jokingly mentioned to her that the Scots-American culture could really use another shot in the arm such as was experienced with the movies *Rob Roy* and *Braveheart*. So how about writing an incredible Scottish romance story about the border reivers...a tale so captivat-



ing as to attract the attention of the big film makers?

Kris had this response:

"Actually - I'm working on a novel set on the border in 1354 immediately following the Black Death. My heroine takes the "Bell" name as she steps into the role of Lady of the estate, and raises the plague-orphaned Bell heir. The hero is a Scottish knight from whom she is keeping her true English/bastard /servant" identity a secret."

We expect the Hollywood folks will be beating down Kris' door.

Kris has a very attractive website. Visit it for purchase information: www.KrisTualla.com

CBI Member's Way of Nurturing, the Scots-American Culture

Although her heritage resides somewhere in the Highlands, her heart and love is definitely in the border country. Marilyn Kourinos is a devoted fan of the Scots Borders, and a big reason she enrolled with CBI. Patty Bell Gettman and Ray Bell first met Marilyn while hosting a Clan Bell tent at the 2007 Maine Highland Games and immediately struck up a strong friendship. Marilyn loves the musical groups from Scotland and especially the group called *Scocha*, that comes from the Scottish Borders. She recognized how difficult it is for a young band to come and perform in America. In short, she tries to make it very easy for Scottish bands to do business here in the New England. Above and beyond making the musicians feel welcome and comfortable and loved when they perform in her state of Maine and other New England States, she (along with Beth Lowell, friend and partner in these Scots-American good-will efforts) has been known to meet the



Beth Lowell, Ronnie MacDonald of NORTH SEA GAS, and our own Marilyn Kourinos doing CBI proud.

musicians at the airport; taxi them around; make sure they eat properly and so forth. When the Scottish Band *North Sea Gas* performed in the Portland area in June, Marilyn stayed at a local hotel and gave up her home to them for a few days.

NOT DING DONG BELLS *continued*

The original meaning of the Bell name had nothing to do with clanging or ding-dong bells. Hundreds of years ago our Scottish Bell name was Anglicized. Someone had the enormously-clever idea of representing our Norman-derived name *Bel*, meaning "fair" or "handsome," with a symbol portraying the English meaning of the word, bell, by picturing a metal, ding-dong bell.

So popular was the idea, that the clanging, bell symbol was then used on Bell family coat of arms designs. Although an inaccur-

rate symbol for our family/clan name, the ding-dong bell does make for a very recognizable symbol or signature for us.

The French-Norman word for a clanging bell is "cloche." It just doesn't have the same ring to it.

Little wonder that so many Bells who were just tired of being called "ding dong" Bell, or "ding-a-ling," changed their names to Beal, Bael, Bill, Behel, Beels, Bayle, etc.

Book Review of Gertude Bell's, "The Desert and the Sown"

by Pat Bell Anderson, CBI Commissioner for Arizona



Who would have thought, at the outset, that this tall, proud, determined redhead with blazing green eyes, would eventually change the geography of the Near East! And yes, she was born in Durham County, England, but one of her middle names, Lowthian, hints at a Scottish connection.

Gertrude Bell's name is forever linked to her drawing of the current Near East borders, creating the modern nation of Iraq, but she was so much more. Her expertise, drawn from fluency in Arabic, Persian, German, Italian, Turkish, and French, employed on her archeological expeditions in the area, allowed her to acquire valuable contacts with leaders of diverse ethnic and religious groups such as Arabs, Jews,

Christians, Armenians, Druze, Kurds, and others. This enabled her to deeply understand their cultures, priorities and problems. Gertrude not only applied that invaluable knowledge to her writings, but also spied for the British Government during WW I, providing T.E. Lawrence ("of Arabia") with copious information and advice. Her government pay did not cover all they asked of her, so she completely exhausted her large inheritance as well. She also found time to create the Baghdad Museum. What she wanted most of all was to be accepted into the Royal Geographic Society. That honor was finally bestowed after her death, although she was made a Commander of the British Empire in her lifetime! She was deeply mourned in Baghdad at her funeral, and is buried there.

It is Gertrude's book, *The Desert and the Sown, Travels in Palestine and Syria*, that I will briefly review. She also wrote *A Thousand and One Churches* and *Persian Pictures*, as well as numerous papers, academic and personal, now the property of Newcastle University Library.

Gertrude began her expedition in Jerusalem and headed north to Jeri-

cho, Amman, through Druze territory to Damascus, Homs, Hamah, Aleppo, Antioch, Alexandretta, to name a few. She, with her guides, passed through very rugged territory, terrible storms; areas filled with natural beauty (she commented on every type of flower she saw as well as vividly describing hostile landscapes such as ancient lava flows, old volcanoes) and of course, every single site of ruins, commenting on any art work, the assumed age of the site, what might have caused its abandonment, etc. She found Greek, Roman and Crusader ruins, noting how those who followed modified them. A sanctuary could have been a pagan, Christian, and Muslim place of worship, for example. Gertrude carefully described the nomadic or agricultural societies she encountered and how she adapted to their hospitality. She charmed barely friendly leaders and was pleasantly surprised when friendly ones already knew she was coming! The lady did not miss anything!

Horses, camels, mules: she rode them all with expertise. And even when faced with difficult encounters, managed to sail through with her command of so many languages. During this trip, however, she lost her tweed coat with her passport in the pocket, never explaining how she got around that on the way home.

Do try to read the book yourself. It is published by Dover Press, is reasonably priced, and is available from major book stores.

An Excellent Bell Study Guide, The Bell Omnibus CD Rom

Appropriately titled *The Bell Omnibus*, this CD-ROM contains six of the more popular booklets reprinted by Clan Bell International (CBI) having to do with the family of Bell in Scotland and America.

The Bell Omnibus CD-Rom contains electronic copies in reader format of:

The Bells of St. Andrews, compiled by Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor. (see page 4)

Memorial of the Clan of the Bells by Charles Davidson Bell, Surveyor General of Cape of Good Hope.

The Bell Family in America, a historical account of early American Bells by William M. Clemens.

Bell Family Records, a compilation by J. Montgomery Seaver of the history and genealogies of Bell families in the UK and the USA;

Bell Family Stone Church Bells, Augusta County, Virginia, compiled from material by Harry E. Handley, M.D. and Major Henderson Moffatt Bell (CSA); and

Coats of Arms and Other Heraldic Devices Associated with the surname of Bell, Beall and Other Spellings of the Name by Ward L. Ginn, Jr.

This CD-ROM version of *Bell Family Omnibus* is copyright protected with all rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions. CD-ROM - Copyright © by Clan Bell International, Ltd.

This CD-Rom is available on the Clan Bell International Store Order Form for \$25.00 which is a real bargain since to purchase all of these items in hard copy would cost you nearly \$40.00. It includes the *The Bells of St. Andrews* booklet which is featured in the cover article.

ORDER FORM **Clan Bell International Store**

DESCRIPTION	PRICE	QTY.	TOTAL
BOOKS on CD-ROM FORMAT			
The Bell Family in Dumfriesshire... The only book known today giving a history of the Border Bells was available in soft cover format until it went out of print. However, newly published in PDF format, this informative book is again readily available to the public. This book was written by James Steuart and published under the auspices of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society. Steuart's mother was a Crowdieknowe Bell and he began his notes as a personal recording of the pedigree of his maternal ancestors.	\$10.00		
The Bells in U.S.A. and Allied Families 1650—1977... This book is the most comprehensive compilation of genealogical information about Bell immigrants and their descendents ever published in the United States. Published in 1977, the only printing of the cloth-bound book was limited and the supply was soon exhausted. Because of its length, reprinting the book in its original hard-bound format would have been prohibitively expensive.	\$10.00		
The Bell Omnibus This CD-ROM contains electronic copies in reader format of the below six more popular booklets printed by Clan Bell International having to do with the family of Bells in Scotland and America.	\$25.00		
BOOKS and BOOKLETS			
Memorial of the Clan of the Bells ... A reprint of an old manuscript written in 1692 and a collection of notes written in 1864 about the Bells of Kirkconnel and Blackethouse.	\$7.00		
The Bells of St. Andrews ... A reprint of Alexander Graham Bell's compilation of birth, marriage and death records covering the period of 1627 to 1828	\$7.00		
The Bell Family Records ... A reprint of a book that features the genealogies of British Bells of Beltour, Thirsk, Pendall Court, Bourne Park and Rouston Range during the time period from the 14th through the 19th centuries.	\$7.00		
The Bell Family in America... A reprint of a book that contains an account of the first Bell families in America, including a list by state, of every family in the United States according to the 1790 US Census.	\$7.00		
Stone Church Bells ... An account of Stone Church Bells my Major Henderson Moffat Bell (CSA). Based on a letter written in 1895, this small booklet provides valuable information about the "Stone Church" branch of a family founded by the immigrant, William Bell and his wife, Mary in the first half of the 18th century.	\$5.00		
Coat of Arms of the Bells ... This booklet contains more than two dozen high-quality illustrations of arms granted to Bells in the UK and coats of arms and heraldic devices used by Bell family organizations.	\$7.00		
Colonel Ninian Beall Papers ... A reprint of an historical paper about the life and public service of Colonel Ninian Beall.	\$7.00		
The Colonial War Services of Colonel Ninian Beall ... An excellent supplement to the historical paper on Colonel Ninian Beall.	\$3.50		
John Yates Beall, Confederate Commando ... This monograph culminates several years of research and it's purpose is to present an accurate account of John Yates Beall's life and extraordinary Civil War career.	\$7.00		
William Bell's Voyage in 1817 to Canada ... If you have ever wondered what it was like on a sea voyage that carried our ancestors from Scotland or Ireland to America so many, many years ago, then you are in luck. Transcribed into electronic format by his gr gr gr grandson, Rupert Speyer, letters written by Rev. William Bell provide a vivid account of the voyage that he and his family made from Scotland to Canada in 1817. Rev. William Bell was the first Presbyterian minister as well as teacher in Perth. The account of his family's voyage aboard the ship, <i>Rothiemurchus</i> , to Canada is spelled out in a book the Reverend published in 1824 entitled, <i>Hints to Immigrants</i> . The book comprises 25 letters describing the voyage and explains the immigration process. Six of the twenty five letters are devoted solely to the voyage and are reprinted in this book. Thanks to Dennis Bell, CBI's Canada Representative for bringing this ocean-voyage account to our attention.	\$7.00		
SHIRTS IMPRINTED WITH CLAN BELL CREST			
Great-looking navy blue shirts... heavy weight, 50/50 Cotton Polyester. The Clan Bell crest is printed in white on the back and the wording, <i>CLAN BELL</i> is printed in a Celtic font over the heart on the front.			
Please indicate quantity of each shirt size in boxes provided	Short Sleeve T-shirts available in size M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/>		\$15.00
	Long sleeve shirts available in size L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/>		\$17.00
CLAN BELL COLOR PRINTS— Suitable for framing			
Attractive "Clan Bell pride" color prints ideal for den, study or office, printed on heavyweight paper stock.			
	Blackethouse tower color print		\$15.00
	Clan Bell crest color print		\$15.00

TOTAL ENCLOSED →

All pricing includes shipping and handling! Sorry...we do not accept credit cards.

Mail your orders with CHECK or MONEY ORDER to: **Clan Bell Store, 12147 Holly Knoll Circle, Great Falls, VA 22066**

Customer shipping information:

Name: _____ Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Clan Bell International, Ltd

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

President

William H. Bell
951-781.6629
Wmredcloak@sbcglobal.net

Vice President

Ward L. Ginn Jr.
703-430-6745
wginn@cox.net

Treasurer/

Membership Secretary

Alta Jean Ginn
12147 Holly Knoll Circle
Great Falls, VA 22066
703-430-6745
aginn@cox.net

Recording Secretary

Kathleen S. Bell-Conine
919-269-2250
katjaco9@gmail.com

Member At Large

Rodney S. Bell Jr.,
303-422-0913

Member At Large

Richard C. Bell,
419-483-6711
senecacaverns@hmcld.net

SPECIAL APPOINTEES

Store Manager

Alta Jean Ginn
703-430-6745
aginn@cox.net

Genealogist

T. Larry Bell
987 Hurricane Creek Road
Chattanooga, TN 37421
423-899-5464
larrybell1@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor

Ray W. Bell
603-943-3740
raybellprint@msn.com

Web Developer

Bryan Ginn
703-678-1548
bginn@clanbell.org

COMMISSIONERS for SCOTTISH FESTIVALS

Arizona

Pat Bell Anderson
pataa@qwest.net

California

Rev. Michael Bell
clanbell@quixnet.net

Kent Bell

kentbell55@yahoo.com

Florida

Virginia Bell
jbell102@verizon.net

Frieda Shoemake

kfshoe101@juno.com

Georgia

John I. Bell, Jr.
JIBJR485@bellsouth.net

Ira Wayne Miller

lwmpiper@gmail.com

Oregon

Karissa M. Beals
Krisab@uoregon.edu

Oklahoma and Texas

Ken Bell
skbellcpa@sbcglobal.net

Maryland

Steve Morris
clanbellmd@yahoo.com

New Hampshire and Maine

Ray W. Bell
raybellprint@msn.com

North Carolina

David E. Bell
DEBellinMD@aol.com

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Argentina

Eduardo Bell
eddiebell@speedy.com.ar

Australia/New Zealand

June Bell Freeman
clanbell@bigpond.net.au

Austria/Switzerland

Henri J. Bell
h.bell@tele2.ch

Brazil

Jean Charles Bell
wernerb@terra.com.br

Canada

Dennis Bell
dnbell@shaw.ca

Chile

Andrea Garriga Bell
andreagarriga@gmail.com

England

Steven Bell
steven@bell6709.freemove.co.uk

Honduras

Allen J. Beall
allanjbeall@hotmail.com

India

Noreen Lavender
noreenlavender@ntlworld.com

Mexico

Rosario Salas Beall
ladyrosemx@yahoo.com

The Netherlands

Michael Bell
taghnabrickbell@yahoo.com

Northern Ireland and

Republic of Ireland

Stephen M. McKenzie-Bell
smmb83@hotmail.com

Norway

Per A. Godejord
Pag@hinesna.no

Scotland

Denzil Bell
ashyardsbarn@tiscali.co.uk

South Africa

Christopher Bell
cgb@clanbell.co.za

Uruguay

James M. Bell
bell@multi.com.uy

Venezuela

Antonio A. Herrera-Vallant
aherreravallant@gmail.com

Bell-Kraus Wedding Takes on a Scottish Flair

CBI member and long time helper at the Clan Bell tents at New Hampshire Highland Games, Laurie Elizabeth Bell, of Nashua, New Hampshire married Mark Kraus of Nashua, on May 15th

Not just any piper played at the Bell-Kraus wedding. Stuart Paul, Pipe Major and Founder of the Scots Highland Pipes and Drums of Ashby MA, did the honors. Clan Bell members in New Hamp-

shire, Massachusetts and Maine have been loyal supporters and promoters of the extraordinary Annual Robert Burns Night supper and concert sponsored by the Highland Pipes & Drum Band. The Bells were pleased and honored that the band's "top gun" made himself available to play at Laurie and Mark's wedding.

Now, both Laurie and Mark are members of Clan Bell International, and look forward to hosting the Clan Bell tent at the northeast's largest Scots gathering: the 2010 New Hampshire Highland Games, a three-day event which attracts 50,000 attendees annually.



CBI members, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Kraus



Clan Bell International

12147 Holly Knoll Circle
Great Falls, VA 22066



To:



"A Time for Bells to Ponder"

by J. Elton Bell, FSA Scot

Our democracy has existed for over two hundred and thirty-four years and the United States is not the first successful democracy in the world, but rarely has any democracy survived beyond 200 years.

Alexander Fraser Tytler (Tyler)*, a Scottish history professor, is said to have written the following theme when the thirteen American colonies were still a part of Great Britain. He was, at the time, writing of the fall of the Athenian republic over two thousand years earlier that had lasted for almost two hundred years.

"A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largesse from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy, always followed by a monarchy or dictatorship.

The average age of the world's greatest civilizations from the beginning of history, has been about 200 years.

During those 200 years, these nations always progressed through the following sequence:

- From bondage to spiritual faith;
- From spiritual faith to great courage;
- From courage to liberty;
- From liberty to abundance;
- From abundance to complacency;
- From complacency to apathy;
- From apathy to dependency;
- From dependency back into bondage."

Two recent researchers have challenged these writings as embellishments through other writers and although there was a Professor Alexander F. Tytler of Edinburgh of that era, they could find no such writings in any of his publications. I remain unconvinced that these recent findings are complete, perhaps because of my belief in family tradition that included the quote from the nineteen thirties. **More importantly, regardless of who wrote or embellished on the theme, it is time to ponder.*

J. Elton Bell, previous editor of our Clan Bell newsletter, is a regular contributor to *NABELICH*. He has written several Bell-specific books that are of great value to Bell heritage researchers. Contact him at: jmblue96@aol.com