



An Airean  
Ceann Cinnidh

# Family of Bruce Society in America

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## BANNOCKBURN



**FALL, 1997**

### INTRODUCTION

The first news is that your Editor has moved *again*, and it is hoped that this the last one for a long time. Please make note of this change so your correspondence will not go astray.

We have received a lot of favorable comments on the Spring issue of *Bannockburn*. It would be really a pleasure to receive more letters from the members. Do feel free to write about your ideas, criticism and suggestions. They will be welcome.

Remember that the Spring, 1998 issue will be for Genealogy. Send in your material, and don't forget Queries!

Emily McClaine, Editor  
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### A GREAT DAY for SCOTLAND!

On September 11, 1997—just 700 years after William Wallace won a decisive victory over an English army at Stirling Bridge—the Scots came together in a massive vote for an independent Parliament: a victory for Scotland not seen since the days of Robert the Bruce!

A referendum was presented to the Scots. A similar vote in 1979 failed to secure sufficient support for passage. This time it was again feared that a poor turnout of voters would mean another defeat. The amazing result showed that an astonishing voter response of over 60 percent of those eligible to vote had answered the two referendum questions with no room left for doubt: 74% of the voters called for a Scottish Parliament and 63% were willing to give that independent Scottish parliament the ability to raise taxes, to have as much real power as possible.

"The people have spoken in the clearest possible way," commented Scottish Secretary Donald Dewar. Scots-born British Prime Minister Tony Blair said he was "delighted" with the referendum outcome. But the most promising comment came from Alec Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party, who said "We've embarked on a journey, and the end of this journey is independence!" This upbeat forecast is borne out by the fact that a poll taken on voting day found that 61% of voters believed a Scottish Parliament would lead to full Scottish independence.

Who among those in the Scottish-American community should feel more elated than the members of the Family of Bruce! Our hero ancestor, King Robert the Bruce, devoted his reign to securing unity and freedom for the Scottish people. Union with England in the years since has seen economic subjugation and second-class citizenship. Eventual control of its own resources—offshore oil, hydro power, high tech developments, trade goods, etc., are goals now within sight. We congratulate those in our homeland "across the pond" for the restoration of Scotland's Parliament after 290 years of Union with Westminster! (With thanks to *the Scottish Banner* for information)  
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### MESSAGE from the PRESIDENT

Greetings to the members—all of us cousins in our extended Family through our Bruce connections!

My husband Oley and I have just concluded our busiest season of Scottish activities to date! In June we traveled to Virginia to attend the Bannockburn Day celebration hosted by the Clans of Scotland, Inc. at Ward Hill Park in Alexandria where I was asked to read the winning essay in our Scholarship Contest. The Clans of Scotland, Inc. contribute substantially to our prize money and we are grateful to them for their interest and support. (See the winning essay on another page.) We had a Bruce table for the medieval pig roast and were joined by Grace Karish, our VA Convener, and several other Virginia members whom we were happy to meet. (continued)

## Message from the President (Continued)

The next day we attended the Scottish Festival in Fredericksburg where we met longtime member Virginia Oliver, a certified genealogist. We both agreed that this was one event where we definitely should show our presence with a Bruce clan tent.

We came back to MA to cohost the Bruce clan tent with Membership Chairman G. Frank Scammon at the Central Massachusetts Highland Games and Celtic Festival on June 28. Frank carried the torch for Family of Bruce in their Calling Up the Clans torch ceremony.

On July 5 we were at Ft. Ticonderoga, NY for the dedication of the Black Watch Memorial Cairn, raised to honor those ill-fated Scots who fell in attempting to wrest the Fort from the French in July 1758. Family of Bruce member Charles H. Bruce and Scottish Bruce representative Dr. V. R. Bruce had gone to Lochmaben Castle, reputed to be the birthplace of King Robert the Bruce, and sent back a stone from the ruined castle walls which arrived just in time to be placed in the cairn directly over the doorway!

Then it was down to Linville, NC for the Grandfather Mt. Highland Games July 10-13, where we held our Annual Meeting in the Chieftain's Tent on July 12. We shared our condo with stalwart member Marianna Barneyback and Carleton White, husband of our Secretary Rita White, who was hospitalized and unable to join us. Her generosity in sending her husband in her stead stands out as above and beyond the call of duty!

Then came two re-enactments back in NH: a skirmish against British troops in Exeter and a 5-day siege at "The Fort at Number 4," in Charlestown.

By August first we were attending the Clan Dinner with Frank Scammon for the Tam O' Shanter Games at Easton, MA and cohosting the Bruce tent with him on the next day. Poor Frank says that he will never carry the Bruce parade banner again—it weighs a ton!

On Aug. 15 we attended the Clan Dinner of the St. Andrew's Society of Maine, joining our Maine Conveners, Dana and Erlene Davis, and Frank Scammon. It was good to see one of the Founding Members of Family of Bruce there: Robert W. Bruce who has been sailing the seven seas in his motorsailor for the past several years. Next day we were all in the Davises' Bruce tent for the Highland Games at Thomas Point, where Frank was Steward for the Games.

The following weekend we went to Vermont for one of our favorite Games: the Quechee Scottish Festival. We enjoyed the potluck supper and informal entertainment on Friday night, where I was embarrassed by having to sing "Scots Wha Hae" with the entertainers George Worthley and his wife Carol, who said they would not play that anthem unless the President of the Family of Bruce joined in! Next day was a busy one at our Bruce tent, and this year the Family of Bruce presented a lovely silver tray to the Champion Junior Dancer in honor of Dorothy Melville, our recently deceased oldest member.

The season culminated with our attending the New Hampshire Highland Games at Loon Mt. on Sept. 12-14. This year, with perfect weather, Friday proved as busy as Saturday had been in the past! Newest member Kerry Fox of Greensboro, NC came to help out in the Bruce tent with us and "get his feet wet" co-hosting. Charlie Crosby, Robert Bruce, and Dana Davis marched with Oley in the Clan Parade while I stood on the reviewing stand. (The clans were limited to four marchers each.)

Yes, it's been a busy season, but we'd like to see more Bruce tents at more Games and Gatherings! Please let me know where you can help out!

Yours, Aye,

Ernestine B. Firth  
National President

## ANNUAL MEETING, July 12, 1997

The Annual Meeting of the Family of Bruce Society in America was held in the Chieftains' tent at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in Linville, NC on Saturday, July 12, 1997.

The Meeting was called to order by President Ernestine Firth at 3:00 PM. In the absence of the Secretary (due to hospitalization) the Minutes were taken by a Secretary pro tem. These Minutes have not been received; therefore the following is a reconstruction of the proceedings.

The Secretary's Report was given by her husband, Carleton White. Mrs. White reported that she had contacted all the Officers with the Call to the annual Meeting.

The Treasurer's Report stated that dues amounting to \$4,950.00 had been deposited in the bank account, with \$570.00 received for application fees, reimbursements from the New England Division of \$90.00, and \$150.00 received from the Clans of Scotland as a contribution toward the Essay Contest prizes. \$6,758.14 was transferred from the closed bank account, and with other receipts, the total receipts came to a healthy \$12,749.43.

Expenses of reimbursements of \$1,167.34, advertising of \$381.00, printing of \$1,890.67, Games expenses of \$937.95, office and postage costs of \$315.40, Essay Contest prizes of \$375.00, and miscellaneous expenses of \$82.76. This leaves a balance on hand of \$7,599.31. In addition, we hold a CD, composed of the Life Memberships, with a balance of \$4,449.55.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted with expressions of appreciation to the Treasurer, G. Frank Scammon, for his diligent stewardship.

Mr. Scammon's Report as Membership Chairman then followed. He listed 326 single memberships, 102 Family memberships, 177 Life memberships, 23 Complimentary memberships, and 7 memberships pending (application fee only received,) making a total of 635 memberships.

100 members were dropped last year for non-payment of dues, and 100 new members were taken in to replace them. In addition, 49 members will have to be dropped for non-payment of dues unless subsequent payment is received. All have been contacted.

The Chairman has received checks identified as current dues but with no payment for the previous year. He concluded with the remark, "It has been an extreme pleasure to have been your Membership Chairman for the past three years." Again, he was commended for the fine performance of his duties.

The Genealogist, Erlene Davis, submitted the following report:

### Family of Bruce Society in America, Inc. Genealogist's Annual Report for 1997

Many thanks to all of our members that have taken the time to send us an update on their lines. Every little bit helps to fill in the gaps in our records and in doing so, helps me to help other members. Again this year, I'd like to stress that it's important for our members to send in names and data on siblings of each of your Bruce ancestors, if you have it available to you. All info helps to complete our files, giving me more data to work with, which in turn, enables me to help other members.

In my 1996 Annual Report I asked for members that have ancestry of one of our five Sept families, to help with genealogy of their Sept. I have had one response from Lynn R. McR. Hawkins of Bluff City, Tenn. Lynn has offered to help with Sept Carlisle correspondence and genealogy. Thank you, Lynn. Have not heard from any of our other four septs, Crosby, Carruthers, Randolph and Stenhouse. Hope to hear from members of one of these families soon, though. (Cont)

## ANNUAL MEETING, July 12, 1997 (continued)

[Genealogists' Report] I would still appreciate hearing from any member that has Canadian Bruce ancestors that would be willing to help other members extend their Canadian Bruce lines. This would entail keeping our Canadian records and attempting to answer inquiries that come in.

With the help of our many files I have been successful in helping a few of our members extend their lines this year. My goal is that some time, down the line, we will have enough complete lines in our files to help all of our members with their lines. We still have a long way to go but we're getting there.

I quite often have letters of inquiry from non members which I do not have time to answer. Our members are my first priority. If any member would like to take on the responsibility of answering letters from non members, I'm sure they would appreciate it. For all you members that have email and have a reason to contact me, my email address is [brucegen@ewol.com](mailto:brucegen@ewol.com) -- and all of you members that are on the internet, I hope that you have found some good Bruce sites and are enjoying them. -- Erlene Davis, Genealogist/Registrar. \*\*\*\*\*

There was no Report from the Vice President for East of the Mississippi, Boyd Bruce III. Col. James Calhoun, Vice President for West of the Mississippi, reported that he had had good success in getting new members and expected to get more soon as a result of the Celtic Games held in Albuquerque in May. He sends "very best wishes to all the members." He is trying to reorganize the "Society of Descendants of the Order of Queen Boadicea," the sister organization founded by Harry Hill, our Founder, and requests that all those who held membership in that organization please contact him. He has no roster of the previous members.

The President, Ernestine Firth, gave her Report, listing the Games and Festivals which she had attended during the past year and at which she had hosted or co-hosted a Bruce tent. She repeated her request for a Games Steward who will keep track of upcoming Games and contact members in the area who may be interested in hosting a Bruce tent. This is a position which is badly needed, and could be shared by a Committee of Games Stewards.

She apologized for the many errors in the Roster due to the printer's problems, necessitating a mailing of corrections to the members.

She also seeks some one who could "get us online." Can a computer-literate member contact her about a speedy page for Family of Bruce on the Internet?

The Scholarship Chairman, Gwendolyn Caldwell, had sent the winning Essay to be read, and Mrs. Firth was happy to oblige. (See Essay on another page.) Mrs. Caldwell was thanked for her fine chairmanship.

The terms of the National Officers having expired at this Meeting, those attending were asked to vote on a new slate of Officers. Ernestine Firth was re-elected President "by acclamation" with one very loud dissenting vote from her husband! The other Officers were re-elected with the exception of the National Secretary. This office remains open, pending securing a member who is near enough to the President to be available for consultation, etc.

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM with the amusing discovery by two of the attendees that they were under the impression that they were attending the Annual Meeting of another clan!!!

Because the Headquarters of the Family of Bruce, Banner House, in nearby Banner Elk, was not open at this time, there was no reception taking place there this year. It is hoped that Betty Hill, widow of our Founder, will be in residence there next year.

As a footnote to the annual Meeting report, it should be mentioned that onlookers in the Bruce tent were cheered to see a number of young contestants vying for the Family of Bruce in the athletic competitions. Jeffrey Bruce of Greensboro, NC ran in the Clan Kilted Mile, the Kilted Mile Relay, and the age 16-30 Kilted Mile. Gaston, Houston, and Arrington Mooney ran under Bruce colors in the Kilted Mile Relay, Junior Caber Toss, 11-12 Kilted 1/4 Mile and 9-10 Kilted 1/4 Mile and 13-15 Kilted Mile.

Ernestine B. Firth, National President

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THIRD ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST WINNER: Robert Burns and His Ode 'Scots Wha Hae'  
Commemorating Robert The Bruce's  
Victory at Bannockburn  
*Submitted by Caroline MacCrimmon*

Two men, one nation, one dream. These two men were Robert the Bruce, who led the Scots to victory at Bannockburn, and Robert Burns, the most famous of Scotland's poets: two very different people with the same Scottish pride and love of Homeland. With this pride and love, Robert Burns dedicated the poem 'Scots Wha Hae' to Robert the Bruce's legendary battle at Bannockburn.

Toward evening on Saturday, June 22, 1314, Bruce and his men took up their positions at Bannockburn, and watched for the first signs of the great English host which had approached so near. Soon, directly across from them stood an army three times their size, equipped with the most modern armour. The reality of the decision Bruce and his men were about to make suddenly became apparent: fight and risk losing their lives, or retreat and lose their liberty. The men would not resist the chance of victory. That day Bruce and his men won for Scotland a very sweet taste of triumph over the English, and almost 700 years later his heroic memory lives on in the heart of every proud Scot.

The other of Scotland's great heroes was the legendary poet Robert Burns. Burns' poetry is rich with love, pride, and

Essay Contest Winner (continued) sincerity which has charmed and inspired people for centuries. This can be illustrated in the song and poem 'Scots Wha Hae,' inspired by the old air 'Hey Tuttu Taitie,' which is believed to be the tune to which Bruce's army marched into battle at Bannockburn. Burns wrote to a comrade at the end of August 1793, that the thought that this may have been the air played at Bannockburn 'warmed me to a pitch of enthusiasm on the theme of Liberty & Independence, which I threw into a kind of Scots Ode, fitted to the Air, that one might suppose to be gallant ROYAL SCOTS address to his heroic followers on that eventful morning. (1) In 'Scots Wha Hae' Burns has aroused the spirit of patriotism and Jacobitism for all to read.

"Liberty! thou art a prize truly and indeed invaluable, for never canst thou be too dearly bought." (2) This wise quote from Burns embodies the essence of the legacy of Bruce. Burns and Bruce are shown to resemble each other in heart and soul by the words of a verse from this familiar poem and song:

By Oppression's woes and pains,  
By your sons in servile chains,  
We will drain our dearest veins  
But they shall be free!

Burns, in writing 'Scots Wha Hae', has expressed his admiration of the defense of his homeland to Bruce.

The determination, love, and loyalty of the Scots in battle has been eloquently honoured by Burns in this poem which continues to inspire generations of people around the world to fight for what they feel is right in their hearts, and to never let go of a dream. These two valiant spirits will be treasured and live on in the heart of every true Scot forever.

(1)David Daiches ; Robert Burns; Tonbridge Printer Ltd; Great Britain, 1966, p.308

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#### BIOGRAPHY of the author of the winning Essay:

Caroline MacCrimmon is a fifteen year old, grade ten student from Niagara Falls, Ontario. Her mother was born and raised in Glasgow, Scotland and her father is from Glengarry, Ontario, home of the Maxville Highland Games (one of the biggest highland games in North America). Her dad is also a piper and has played in a world class pipe band. Caroline's ancestors on her dad's side all trace back to the Highlands of Scotland, and the Scottish culture remains very strong in her family. Caroline has one older sister whom she also considers one of her best friends (most of the time!)

Caroline loves music and includes the Rankin Family and the Barra MacNeils among her favorite Celtic music groups. She has taken singing lessons for four years and is looking forward to attending Gaelic College in Nova Scotia this summer to learn to speak and sing in Gaelic. She is also going to try her hand at the Cape Breton fiddle. She does a little Scottish Country Dancing. To say the least, Caroline is very proud of her heritage!

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#### ANNOUNCING the FOURTH ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST!

The Family of Bruce Society is again offering money prizes to the winners of the Fourth Annual Essay Contest. Gwendolyn B. Caldwell, #L292, who has done yeoman duties as the Chair of the Scholarship Committee for the first three contests, has turned over the office of chair of the committee to Patricia Lynch McDaniel, #770.

Because of the interest in Scottish history generated by the recent films "Braveheart" and "The Bruce," we see this as a fine opportunity to set the record straight. Many of us were shocked and disappointed at the liberties taken with history in these films. Therefore the subject of the new contest is "William Wallace and Robert the Bruce: The True Story."

Essays are to be 500 words or less, typed and double-spaced, and should be accompanied by a short biography of the author. The contest is open to high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors. The contest closes on May 1, 1998. Prize awards will be: First Prize; \$ 300.00 - Second Prize; \$ 200.00 - Third Prize; \$ 100.00

All entries are to be sent to Mrs. Patricia Lynch McDaniel, 1034 Potomac Road, Dunwoody, GA 30338

MEMBERS!!! Please assist the Scholarship committee by spreading word of the contest to your local high schools and see that young people in your area are aware of this opportunity to learn something of Scottish history and earn a significant reward!

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#### NEWS and NOTES OF INTEREST

Please note: There *will NOT* be a Business Meeting, Potluck Supper, and Ceilidh held in Bristol, NH in the foreseeable future. This event has been held in May for fifteen years, hosted by our President. This year President Firth will be organizing a Tartan Day celebration, to be held in Bristol, on April 6, 1998. Details have not been worked out as yet, but movies and videos of *The Bruce* will be shown and there will be other entertainment. Please contact our President for further details, places to stay, etc.

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Membership Chairman G. Frank Scammon reports that 45 members plus five Family members have paid their dues only through May 31, 1996. Is this due to an oversight, or do these members wish to drop out? Dues are due for the year ending May 31, 1997 and May 31, 1998. Please check your records and let us know so that we will not send future mailings if you do not wish to continue. The same holds true for 11 of the latest members, who have paid their application fee but have not sent dues for the current year. The first year's dues are payable *along with* the application fee. We value each of our members and trust their membership is meaningful to them. Please help Mr. Scammon by paying your dues!

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(Continued)

## News and Notes of Interest (continued)

Along this line, Mr. Scammon reports that longtime member Esther Bruce of Savannah has sent in dues for her husband Dwight even though he has been deceased since 1994. Thus Mrs. Bruce has established the first of a new Membership Category: Memorial Memberships. She expects to make her husband's Memorial Membership a Lifetime Memorial, and says that her husband greatly enjoyed his membership. We thank her for honoring his interest in this way, and will be happy to accept other Memorial Memberships from members who thus wish to keep their memory of their loved ones alive.

\* \* \*

Mrs. Vernon Bruce, #C487, sends word that Mrs. Leon R. Pierce celebrated her 93rd birthday on June 16, 1997. Mrs. Pierce joined the Family of Bruce as Member #3, a Charter Member! We congratulate her for both accomplishments! and wish her a belated Happy Birthday.

\* \* \*

Mrs. Jean Ankefeld, #L827, who celebrated her 50th Wedding Anniversary last year, wrote that she enjoyed a visit with two granddaughters, then age 9 and 11, and concluded that "we just may be *too old* to be grandparents." Her husband Donald enjoys searching for ancient Indian petroglyphs and calls them "1,000-year-old graffiti!"

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**IMPORTANT NOTICE!** Family of Bruce will again take part in the Alexandria, VA Christmas Walk on Saturday, December 6. Members in Virginia and Maryland, especially, are invited to join President Firth and VA Convener Grace Karish in this easy walk which is over by noon. The Lang family have participated for a number of years and carry a proud Bruce banner as well as throw candies to the children on the sidelines! Last year's weather precluded a social time after the walk, but this year we expect to gather for luncheon and a social get-together after the walk. Contact VA Convener Grace Karish for particulars.

\* \* \*

Speaking of Grace Karish, we wish we had many more such Conveners as she! We receive clippings and souvenirs of her participation at Virginia Gatherings on a regular basis! To cut costs, she often shares a clan tent with another friendly clan!

\* \* \*

Molly Harrison, who had been Co-Convener for Florida, is moving to PA where she will resume Convener status for us there! Allen Stenhouse will take over as Co-Convener for FL and if you live in Florida you may hear from him as he seeks members to co-host the Bruce tents with him. Anne Andersen of Greenbelt, MD is looking forward to becoming our MD Convener. She walked with us last December in Alexandria.

\* \* \*

Many of you have probably wondered what *An Cìrean Ceann Cinnidh*, the Gaelic phrase which appears next to the Bruce crest on all our mailings, means. This is the appropriate phrase to use whenever the Bruce crest is used. It translates as "Crest of the Chief" and the Scottish Standing Council of Chiefs recommends its use.

\* \* \*

A call is going out for someone to fill the office of National Secretary. This person should live within an easy drive of Bristol, NH in order to meet with the President to go over correspondence and mailings three or four times a year. The President desperately needs this assistance and appeals to someone in NH or MA to answer the call!

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Iain Morrison, of 19 Greenhill Crescent, Elderslie, Johnstone PA5 9AW, Scotland, would like the members to know that he takes photos and videos of areas which may be of importance to the members, plus helps with family tree details. He states: "There are many who are unable to come over but who would like to see the area their forebears came from, or to research in Register house in Edinburgh for information on other relatives." Write him for his fees and what he may be able to do for you.

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## TARTAN DAY - Monday, April 6, 1998

March 17 is well-known by everybody as a day for "the Wearin' O' the Green." As the Irish have been recognized on this day for many years, recently it has been proposed that a special day be set aside to recognize the Scots. April 6 is the appointed day, and members of the Family of Bruce can take special pride in knowing that this day was chosen because it commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320. This Declaration, known as the Declaration of Scottish Independence, contains the words "for it is not riches, neither is it honors, but it is Liberty alone we fight and contend for, which no honest man will lose but with his life." It also states "the due and lawful consent and assent of all the people made Robert Bruce our King; to him we are obliged and resolved to achieve in all things, both on account of his right and his own merit, as being the People's safety in defence of their Liberties."

The first nationwide celebration of Tartan Day in 1997 was very successful. Our members are urged to recognize Tartan Day, April 6, 1998, by wearing our Bruce tartan. (We have plenty of Bruce tartan on hand if you need to order some, and gents may write President Firth for vendors who sell Bruce tartan ties, etc.)

Last year, Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi spoke in the U.S. Senate explaining the significance of Tartan Day. Among his remarks were the following: "Scottish-Americans have left their mark as pioneers and innovators in the fields of technology, science, medicine, government, economics, literature, and arts. Their contributions to the history and (continued)



**TARTAN DAY (continued)** development of the United States are invaluable. Some of these great past and present Scottish-Americans include: Neil Armstrong, Alexander Graham Bell, Andrew Carnegie, Julia Child, Thomas Alva Edison, Malcolm Forbes, Katherine Hepburn, Billy Graham, Washington Irving, Samuel Morse, Grandma Moses, Edgar Allen Poe, Robert Louis Stevenson, Gilbert Stuart, Elizabeth Taylor, James McNeil Whistler, to name a very few.

Almost 11% of all Nobel Prizes have gone to people of Scottish ancestry. When our Nation was founded, almost half of the Signers of America's Declaration of Independence were of Scottish descent. Three-fourths of our Presidents have been of Scottish ancestry. Despite the fact that they are few in number, Scots tend to take seriously the words from the Declaration of Arbroath. I am proud to declare my Scottish-American ancestry, and it is an honor to recognize the anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath. Tartan Day is indeed a significant day for all Americans."

Members, please remember to wear your Bruce tartan with pride on April 6, 1998!

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#### ITEMS AVAILABLE

There are just three of the large and beautiful Scottish calendars for 1998 available. These feature the Fife area and show the little fishing villages, landscapes, Falkland, St. Andrews Cathedral, Dunfermline, etc. We displayed these at our Bruce clan tents and they help support the "Kingdom Herald" project of which our Chief, Lord Elgin, is a patron. The calendars are only \$8.00 each plus \$1.50 postage, from the President.

\* \* \*

We have plenty of Bruce tartan ~~for you!~~ It is \$25.00 per yard plus \$1.50 per yard postage. It comes in 64-inch width. Two yards are sufficient for a lady's kilted skirt and four yards for a gent's kilt. We also have Bruce tartan sashes, nearly three yards long, fringed, for \$20.00 plus \$1.50 postage. The tartan material makes wonderful draperies and upholstered items too!

\* \* \*

Past issues of the *Bannockburn* are available from the President for \$1.50 each, postpaid, as follows:

Spring 1993 (Genealogy issue)

Spring 1996 (Genealogy issue)

Fall 1994 (Memorial issue)

Fall 1996

Spring 1997 (Genealogy issue)

\* \* \*

Do you have your Bruce Recognition pin? These display the crest and motto, and are round, one inch in diameter, available from the President for \$8.00 postpaid.

\* \* \*

A new supply of the Pitkin booklet, *Robert the Bruce*, has been received from Scotcraft Books. This is the book we display in our Bruce clan tents. If you would like a copy, they are available from the President for \$8.00 plus \$0.55 postage.

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A MEMBER 'S REQUEST: Michael L. Teague, #1079, sent the following request: Need the 9-volume set of Scots Peerage edited by John Balfour Paul and originally published by the Douglas Co. in Scotland in 1911, now out of print. I will be very appreciative of any help in this quest. I can be reached at 702/823-6582, [mteague@hunton.com](mailto:mteague@hunton.com).

\* \* \*

#### ROOTS '97 A GREAT SUCCESS FOR FAMILY OF BRUCE

On May 30,31, & June 1, 1997 some forty Lowland Clans and Families gathered in Dumfries, Scotland, for the Second Gathering of the Lowland Clans and Families. A year ago, in the Fall *Bannockburn*, President Firth asked if any members would be able to go over to Scotland to represent the Family of Bruce. Member Charles H. Bruce of Altamonte Springs, FL responded to the call and enjoyed a fabulous weekend.

Although he walks with a cane, and was met at the airport with a wheelchair, he told us that when the personal banner of our Chief, Lord Elgin, was given to him to carry in the clan parade, he put aside his cane and determined that he would proudly march the mile and a half carrying the banner "if it kills me!" He finished the march, and the entire weekend, with flying colors, and was royally entertained while in Scotland by Dr. V. R. Bruce of Dumfries who had contacted Family of Bruce about sending a representative.

Incidentally, Charles Bruce went over properly attired in a Bruce tartan kilt and depended on Dr. Bruce to help him round out his attire. The two gentlemen visited a number of sites connected with Robert the Bruce, including Bannockburn and Lochmaben castle. (See Ft. Ticonderoga news item!) Mr. Bruce traveled to Grandfather Mt. to report on his trip at our Annual Meeting. Dr. Bruce mailed over a photo of the Bruce contingent at the Gathering and one of Charles Bruce enjoying (?) his first taste of haggis!!!

We are grateful to both gentlemen for seeing that the Family of Bruce was properly represented, and we are committed to attending the next Lowland Clans and Families Gathering!

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## AN HISTORIC OCCASION!

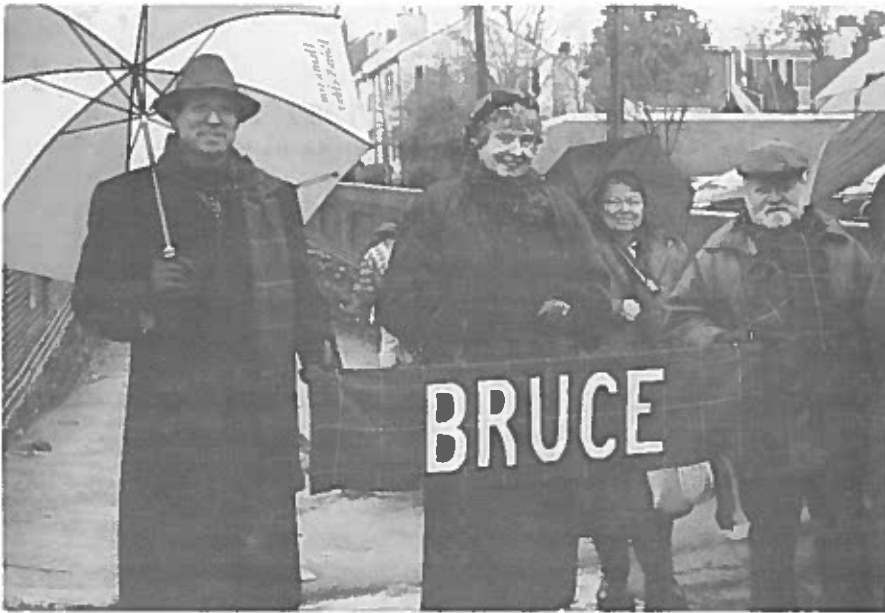
The Line-up for the Clan Parade at Dumfries Scotland, May 31, 1997. Dr. V. R. Bruce (the Bruce Scottish representative and organizer) stands in the center. Charles H. Bruce, Jr. of Altamonte Springs, FL (representing the Family of Bruce Society in America) holds Lord Elgin's personal banner. Valerie Bruce of Dumfries holds the Bruce banner.



At left:

At Roots '97 in  
Dumfries,  
Scotland,  
Charles Bruce  
enjoying his first  
taste of  
haggis, neaps,  
and tatties.

Picture thanks to  
Dr. V. R. Bruce



Above, Left to right: At the Alexandria, VA Christmas Walk, December 7, 1996: Mike Teague, #1079; President Ernestine Firth; Anne Andersen, #1043; and Ray Bruce, #F1044, standing in the rain!



Above, Left to right: Kansas Convener Phyllis Kippenberger, #L837; Paul and Mildred Nicholson, #148, at the Scottish Heritage USA Annual Meeting in Abilene, KS, April 5, 1997



Below left: At the Robert the Bruce Ninth Annual Medieval Feast, June 14, 1997, presented by the Clans of Scotland, USA, at Alexandria VA: Oley Firth & Pres. Ernestine Firth; Larry Young, Chief of the Clans of Scotland, Peggy Marshall, #L1053; VA Convener Grace Karish with Mr/Mrs Michael Teague in background.



At Lower Right: At the Bruce tent, NH Highland Games, September 13, 1997, left to right: Kerry Fox, #L1110, Membership Chairman G. Frank Scammon; Oley Firth; and President Ernestine Firth.



## KINSEARCHING YOUR BRUCE ROOTS by Joseph J Carr Continuation, Part 3

Please note: This extremely interesting and valuable article is authored by Joseph J. Carr and appears through his courtesy and that of the Kerr Family Association of North America. Mr. Carr, who has been interested in genealogy since age 14, has just been named to write the genealogy columns in *The Highlander* magazine.

Although it surprises many people, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS, or "Mormon") is a major player in the genealogy world. Although I don't know why, their doctrine makes ancestor hunting appealing. They maintain an extensive library in Salt Lake City, as well as many local Family History Centers (FHC) in local Mormon churches. Sometimes the yellow pages listing under "Churches" will show separate listings for the FHC libraries. The Mormons are most generous with their resources, and you don't need to be a member of their church to use the facility. Indeed, in several years they have never attempted to proselytize me, or even ask my address.

One of the first sources to use in the local Mormon FHC is the International Genealogical Index (IGI). It is on microfiche at nearly all centers, and in a great many of them there is a computerized IGI. The computer version is easy to use, and the staff will show you what to do (or you can follow the on-screen commands...and don't need to "know how to use a computer". . . only be willing to follow directions). The computer, by the way, is backlogged quite a long time. In my local FHC it is necessary to sign up as much as two weeks in advance for a two hour session. The IGI computer CD-ROM disks are also available in many local history and genealogy libraries that are not in any way affiliated with the church. Again, the Mormons have been quite generous with their material.

The IGI will list surnames, Christian names and indexes and some time of record (birth, death, marriage). A source code tells where that record came from, and points to another index that will permit access to the record. The staff can show you how to get copies of the records from Salt Lake City at a very reasonable cost.

An advantage of the Mormon FHC in your area is that it can put you in touch with other researchers who can either provide information about your line, or (more likely) serve as a mentor until you no longer need instruction in research. This is not an official function of the FHC, but the number of knowledgeable people who frequent the places make them good for networking.

Another advantage of the local Mormon FHCs is that those in the area where your family once lived, say for several generations prior to moving out west, is that they may have collected a large number of local family histories, genealogies or records.

Don't overlook local genealogical bookstores. Most large towns and cities have at least one bookstore that specializes in genealogical materials. Although it is unlikely that you will find a book on your line, what is available is a large amount of "how-to" books on research, regional interest books on the area where your family originated, and the indexes for records available. In addition, they will have a copy of *Genealogical Books in Print*, which can guide you to materials on the family that are published.

Records for 19th century persons are relatively easy to come by, for by then society was addicted to writing things down. But the records for the 18th century and before become sketchy. Indeed, the British government did not even require passenger lists of emigrant ships leaving England, Scotland or Ireland (a lot of us were in Ulster, especially following the Killing Time 1680-88) until 1803.

KERRs, KERs, KARRs and CARRs emigrated from Scotland to a number of other countries, and arrived in America at times ranging from about 1610 (the earliest record I've seen, at Jamestown, VA) to yesterday. Once you have an idea when your ancestors emigrated to America, you can form theories about where they settled, or the route of their travels, from the history of the era.

Although 19th century arrivals had many options open (which confuses your own efforts, unfortunately) earlier arrivals followed certain patterns with some regularity. For example arrivals in the early 18th century tended to land at Boston, and then settle in the Vermont and New Hampshire areas. Later in the century, circa 1740s, the Boston area was filled up, so landless, penniless immigrants seeking cheap land often wound up in Pennsylvania west of Philadelphia (check Chester, Lancaster, Westmoreland and Cumberland counties for those years.) After indentures were served, the immigrants went westward towards Pittsburgh, and then often headed south over roads with such picturesque names as the Warpath Road, the Great Philadelphia Wagon Road, the Carolina Road, and other such names. Many of these roads still exist today with such boring names as "U.S. Route 15" (the portion of the Carolina Road in Virginia). In that era, immigrants tended to be "Scotch-Irish," i.e. Scots who lived in Ulster, Northern Ireland for a time. As a result of this 18th century emigration, a lot of our families trace their ancestors to Virginia, West Virginia, the Carolinas, Kentucky and Tennessee (where even today place names are overwhelmingly not only Scottish but Border names!).

In searching for my own people, I found quite a cluster of KERR and KER spellings (along with the KARR and CARR variants that were obviously the same people) in the southern Pennsylvania area, near the Mason-Dixon line (border with Maryland). It seems that Chester and Lancaster counties had their share of our colonial kinfolk. While researching a *Borderline* article on Kerr/Carrs who served in Congress, I found that Chambersburg, PA was once called "Kerrville." (continued)

## Kinsearching Your Bruce Roots (continued)

If you own a computer, then buy a MODEM and you can check into various local bulletin boards (BBS) via your telephone lines. There is a service called the National Genealogical Conference Echo that allows you to exchange messages with other genealogical researchers who may have a line on the information you are seeking. I've checked into the NGC more than 100 times, and found it very valuable. Also, some local BBS can link you to the European Genealogical Echo, and that permits exchange of messages with researchers in England, Scotland and Ireland. If your local BBS does not subscribe to the NGC, then call long distance to the National Genealogical Society (NGS) BBS (703-528-2612) and link with them.

All of the major on-line public Internet providers have computer genealogy forums that can put you in contact with others doing genealogy work, and some may even be in your own family or line. All you need is a computer with a MODEM. *America On-line*, *CompuServe* and *Prodigy* (I use *America On-line*) all have genealogy forums.

Access to an Internet provider should give you access to the Internet World Wide Web (those strange "http://WWW.(whatever)" computer addresses that are popping up all over the place. Judge which service to join according to their access to WWW. I have found family history sites on the WWW by typing in keywords "Scotland," "KERR" (and the other variant spellings) and "genealogy" on the WebCrawler page at *America On-line*.

If you're serious about your research, then join the NGS to gain mailorder access to their library. It's really great, and when you go to Washington, D.C. to research the Archives, LOC or DAR, a trip across the river to NGS in Arlington, VA is in order. If you plan to go there, then write to me and I'll give you instructions on finding them from wherever in the local area you plan to stay (I am at P.O. Box 1099, Falls Church, VA 22041).

Kinsearching is a very satisfying endeavor, even though very frustrating (even maddening!) at times. In the beginning, you will wonder if you'll ever find anything. But as time goes by, you will both gain your own personal skills as well as network with other researchers (some of them kinfolk) who can help you.

**Preserving Your Work** -- Kinsearching has to be one of the most inefficient activities known to mankind because each generation does it over again, and "cousins" often work parallel efforts in the dark without knowing of the other. Too many times the same story is repeated over and over: a family member researches hard for many years, gets all the known data together, and then passes away. The next generation values it little, so tosses out ". . . grandma's old papers." I have a few suggestions that will immortalize you (sort of) and make it easier for those who follow. In any event, your work will be preserved.

First, every few years, or whenever there is a substantial amount of new material, send copies to the Mormon library in Salt Lake City (address below). I'm not a Mormon, but reciprocate their kindness by sending information of my own. They will take good care of it and provide it to others who inquire about the same lines.

Second, donate copies to the local libraries in the area where your family lived over the years. Most library systems have at least a modest collection dedicated to local history or local genealogy (usually both in the same place).

Third, donate a copy to your own local library, even if it isn't an area where your family lived traditionally. I've located valuable records left by a third cousin who left the material in a library four blocks from her house. She died before I was born, but I have her legacy in my file.

Fourth, if you publish anything on your family, even if it is produced on an office copier, send copies to the Mormons as well as the National Genealogical Society library (address below).

Fifth, distribute copies of your manuscript or computer files as far and wide as possible, in hopes that at least some copies will survive you.

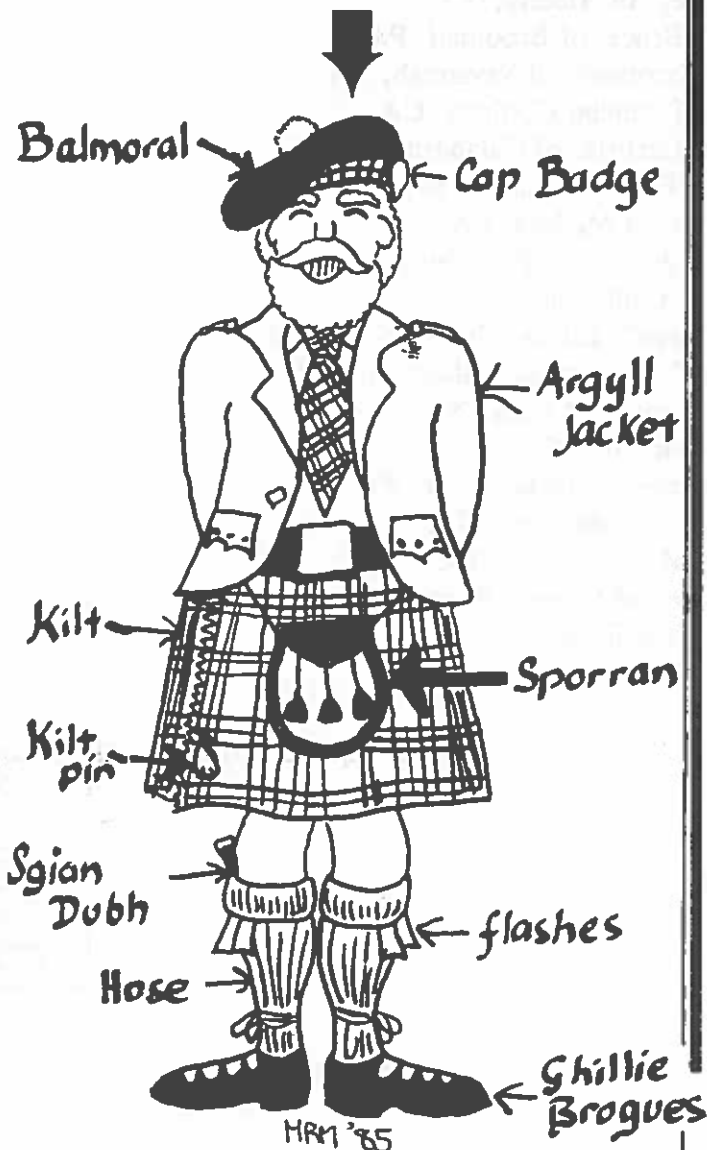
Finally, think very hard about your genealogy files and what is to be done with them after you are gone. Mine are willed to a certain library in the county where we lived for 200 years (and where the local cemetery is called a "used Carr lot" because of all our kin buried there). . .and my wife and kids know that's what is to be done.

## Sources I've used that may also interest the Bruces --

City of Edinburgh Dist. Libraries	LDS Family History Library	Ulster Historical Foundation
Central Library	35 North West Temple St	12 College Square East
George IV Bridge	Salt Lake City, UT 84150	Belfast, BT1 6DD, Northern Ireland, UK
Edinburgh EH1 1EG		
Scotland, U.K.	State Archivist	Hibernian Research Co. Ltd.
	Virginia State Library	Windsor House
Monaghan County Museum	Commonwealth of Virginia	22 Windsor Road
St. Mary's Hill	Richmond, VA 23219	Dublin, 6, Ireland
Monaghan, County Monaghan		
Ireland	United States Archives	National Genealogical Society
	8th & Pennsylvania Ave	4527 North 17th Street
	Washington, D.C. 20408	Arlington, VA 22207-2399

More references and Bibliography to be continued in Spring, 1998 Genealogy *Bannockburn* . . .

# A Well Dressed Highlander



## ODDS 'N ENDS

Mrs. Richard P. Helwig, #L825, sent us a list of the genealogical societies of which she is a member. There are 33 organizations in the list, which includes the DAR, Huguenot Society, Mayflower Descendants, Magna Carta Dames, Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America, Americans of Royal Descent, and even Descendants of the Illegitimate Sons and Daughters of Kings of Britain! Can any member top this list???

\*\*\*\*\*

It is said that King Robert the Bruce once with two followers escaped the clutches of the English King Edward I by having their horses shod backwards to send their pursuers off in the opposite direction! [Ed.note: I have been around horses most of my life, and think this would be impossible -- unless those Englishmen were not too bright! Makes a good story, though.]

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President Ernestine Firth has authored a small book of sea poems centering on the Isles of Shoals, located off the coast of New Hampshire. Titled "Star Songs," it is available from the author for \$5.00, postpaid.

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Many of us sign off our correspondence with the phrase "yours aye." Here is why we do so! (With thanks to the Odom *Family Tree*, June/July, 1997 issue)

What does the phrase "Yours Aye" mean? according to the Scottish Dictionary, the word "aye" has three meanings which are listed in order: (1) always, ever, continually, on all occasions; (2) still, all the same; and (3) ever afterwards, henceforward. I have seen the phrase "yours aye" used most often at the conclusion of a letter in the place of "sincerely yours."

The simple answer to this question in this context is that "yours aye" is intended to be translated "yours always." However, depending on the author of the letter, the *aye* could mean any of the alternate meanings. An author who is writing after a long period of absence could use the phrase to mean "yours still." In most cases, the third meaning of *aye* is used with Scottish legal or governmental type of documents. For example, were the government to rename a street, they would probably pass a resolution that would include: ". . .which shall aye be known as. . ." meaning "which shall henceforward and ever afterwards be known as."

## CEUD MILE FAILTE !!! (One Hundred Thousand Welcomes !!!)

The Officers and Members of the Family of Bruce Society in America extend a warm welcome to the following new Members, who have joined us since the Spring, 1997 *Bannockburn* was printed:

#F651 M/M Thomas P. Mooney, of Albany, NY  
#1096 Mr. Alfred D. ("Bud") Bruce, of Broomall, PA  
#F1097 Dr./Mrs. Timothy L. Carothers, of Savannah, TN  
#F1098 M/M John A. Keyes, of Rancho Cordova, CA  
#1099 Mr. Christopher Davis Carlisle, of Calabash, NC  
#1100 Mr. Homer Sylvester ("Dan") Boone, of Bryan, TX  
#1101 Mr. David Bruce Taylor, of Madera, CA  
#F1102 M/M John Andrew Crosby, of St. Petersburg, FL  
#1103 Mr. Robert J. Bruce, of Linthicum, MD  
#1104 Mr. Burlan Eugene ("Gene") Ellison, Jr., of Knoxville, TN  
#F1105 Dr./Mrs. A. N. ("Jerry") Hardin, of Milledgeville, GA  
#1106 Mrs. Larry (Barbara) Weavil, of King, NC  
#F1107 M/M Berl Bruce, of Concord, NC  
#F1108 M/M David W. Cummings, of Jacksonville, FL  
#1109 Mr. Douglas G. Branch, of Longview, TX  
#L1110 Mr. Kerry Bruce Fox, of Greensboro, NC  
#1111 Ruth Elaine Mann Ashby, of Sulphur Springs, TX  
#1112 Sharon R. Hardin, of Little Rock, AR

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