



An Airean
Ceann Cinnidh

Family of Bruce Society in America

Ernestine B. Firth, President
90 Chestnut Street, Bristol, NH 03222-1540

BANNOCKBURN



FALL, 1999

MESSAGE FROM the EDITOR

My Spring message said a lot about the weather troubles around the country. This trend seems to be continuing. California finds itself in a long, dry and very warm period especially since we are now in November. We are fast approaching the now "famous" date of Jan 1 2000, however you may want to count it. My hopes and prayers go out to all our citizens and members for a great change for the better in all ways in the coming year.

The next year also brings our Society to a change – new officers and a new Editor. Please, Members, pay close attention to our President's message in the next column. This is *very serious*; it is impossible to believe that there are no qualified persons willing to carry on the work of our Society. *Think about it, please.*

I have enjoyed working with the President to produce this newsletter, our *Bannockburn*, the voice of our Society. It can be a joy and pleasure for some other members, too.

Yours Aye,
Emily McClaine, Editor
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FAMILY OF BRUCE COMES TO AN END

MESSAGE FROM the PRESIDENT

Is this the headline you really want to read on the Spring 2000 issue of the *Bannockburn*? There is a very real possibility that this will be so, unless enough of the membership wakes up and realizes that without help from all quarters, our beloved Society will be no more.

I have been your President for nearly six years. My term of office, and that of all the other Officers and appointed Officers, will expire as of June 1, 2000. Our Constitution states that the elected officers may not serve more than two terms, and the appointive Officers will all have to be chosen by a new President.

A full slate of candidates must be presented to the membership this winter, so that Ballots may be sent out and returned, with the results to be published in the Spring *Bannockburn*. If there are no candidates for office, then our Society comes to an end; it is that simple, for there will be no one to carry it on.

We have a healthy membership, our treasury is solid and our assets are secure. We are incorporated; we hold a non-profit permit for bulk mailing; we put out an award-winning newsletter, and the IRS has given us non-profit status. The Society is ready, willing, and able to be turned over to a new administration.

Bearing in mind the alternative, I call upon the membership to think seriously of how YOU can carry forward the Family of Bruce into the new "Millennium."

It has been my pleasure and joy to serve you. There follows a list of offices to be filled. Which one can YOU contribute?

Yours aye,

Ernestine B. Firth
National President

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NEVER HAVE SO FEW

“Never have so few given so much for so many.” Some of you older members no doubt will recognize these words and know that I have borrowed them from a very famous man from about fifty years ago, but they are just as true today and in this situation as when he spoke them. I am, however, referring to the present situation with *your* Family of Bruce. There are only a few who over the years have dug in and helped run the clan, and I can just about count these people on the fingers of both hands (and I have only eight fingers). These members have traveled a great many miles to cover Games or to attend meetings, sometimes through difficult conditions. Some of us have gone from Maine to Florida, others all over New England and New York, and at their own expense.

Your organization is now on a very firm footing; your President has incorporated it, obtained bulk mailing. She and your present Treasurer have obtained tax-free status, and you now have a healthy treasury (not one penny of which existed when they took over).

Your President has carried the New England Division for nearly *seventeen* years, and the National for nearly *six*. She is not really in good health, and like all of us she isn't getting any younger; besides which the Constitution states that a person can hold the presidency for only two terms, and her two terms are up in June. She cannot run for another term, so unless you want to see *your* organization go down the tubes, someone will have to come forth and pick up the reins.

Remember! This is not an organization *for* the members *by* a few, but is an organization *of* the members, *by* the members, *for* the members, and out of a membership of over six hundred it would seem that someone could come forward to take over the ship.

Yours aye,

Oley Firth

Society Sennachie, Personal Piper and Husband to the President

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DESCRIPTION of OFFICES to be FILLED

First, we must have candidates for PRESIDENT. This office calls for someone who enjoys people, can communicate, and – most importantly – can delegate responsibility. (I have not been successful in this last aspect, for when it becomes difficult to find someone to help me I give up and do the job myself. This is not the way!)

Two VICE PRESIDENTS are needed: one for East of the Mississippi River and one for West of the Mississippi River. It is their job to represent the President and the Society at functions in their area. They are the liaison between the members and the workings of the Society. They should contribute their advice and consult with the President.

The office of SECRETARY is an elected office, but I suggest that the new President choose for a secretary someone who lives nearby and can be consulted easily, help with correspondence, and meet with the President on a regular basis. For this reason, it would be helpful if the candidate for President indicate which members they would nominate for Secretary.

The TREASURER receives the dues and deposits them in a convenient bank account. He/She receives cost accounts for the Society's expenses and reimburses them. It should be noted that Frank Scammon, our present Treasurer, filled the unexpired term of the previous Treasurer, Wallace Sjostrom in June, 1996. As such, Mr. Scammon is eligible to serve two more years as our Treasurer. He has agreed to stay on in that office for two years if the new President so desires. This will be of immeasurable help!

The MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN keeps the rolls of the members, sends out dues notices, issues membership cards, files the applications, answers correspondence dealing with applications and other matters of interest to the membership. The Membership Chairman assembles the names and current addresses of the members and oversees the printing of the annual Roster.

The GENEALOGIST files the genealogy pages of the applicants, checks the validity of same, keeps the

Description of Office to be Filled (Continued)

genealogy pages of all the members, and keeps a computer list of all the ancestors. The Genealogist assists the members with their genealogy questions and gives advice on how to proceed. The Genealogist also submits pages of helpful genealogy for the Spring issues of the *Bannockburn* and articles of interest whenever possible.

The office of EDITOR speaks for itself. The Editor assembles submitted material together with whatever information the President sends, and assembles a twice-yearly newsletter for the membership. The Editor proofreads the copy and has it printed nearby.

The office of SCRIBE is appointive, and as such the present intrepid Scribe, Ann Kallal, is free to offer her services to a new administration. Her function is to inscribe the certificates for the new members and mail them out. (Her work is superb!)

All COMMISSIONERS and CONVENERS serve at the pleasure of the President, who chooses them from those appearing on the Ballot or otherwise, and keeps in communication with them. The ten Commissioners serve in the ten postal zones; the Conveners serve in their individual states.

An appointive position which is badly needed, and which I have tried to interest someone in taking on, is that of GAMES STEWARD. This person checks the Events Calendar in magazines such as the *Highlander* and the *Scottish Banner*, lists them by State, and sends these lists to the State Conveners, asking that they notify the President as to which events they can attend to represent the Society.

Another appointive position I suggest is that of SUPPLIES STEWARD. This person, on the advice of the President, obtains items such as recognition pins, badges, books, articles which may be sold to the membership and at Bruce clan tents at Games.

An important new position to be created is that of WEBMASTER, to create a page for us on the Internet and to answer hits. We must keep up with the times!

Ad hoc committees may be formed and dissolved by the President from time to time, to serve various functions. A Scholarship Committee, for instance, has chosen the winning essays in our Essay Contest. An informal committee to handle the mailing out of the *Bannockburn* and Rosters should meet three times a year.

All of the above positions are necessary and vital to the life of the Society. They present wonderful opportunities for the members to get involved in the workings of the Society and to expand their horizons. *Let us go forward together!*

Ernestine B. Firth, President

Some Items of Interest

South Carolina Convener, Boone McKoy, and her sisters Marguerite Williams (#1158) and Emily Leland (#1159) were all prepared to host their first Bruce tent at the Charleston, SC Scottish Games – that is, until a hurricane came along, canceling the Games! Now they are trying again at the Waxhaw, NC Scottish Games. They'll get it yet!

An interesting brochure showing prints of clansmen, pipers, musketeer or lochaber clansmen, all garbed in your choice of tartan (Bruce, of course!) was handed to me at the Williamsburg Scottish Games. Contact Charles Miller, 5268 Albright Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23464 for a colorful brochure with illustrations and prices.

How would you like a Bruce tartan carpet? Stevens & Graham, 50 Jessie St., Glasgow G42 OPG, Scotland, can weave you one in any size of highest quality 80% wool, 20% nylon. Write them for a sample.

Billie Campbell (#L53) shows commendable Bruce fortitude and gumption. Despite serious illnesses and hospitalizations plus disasters (House fire, etc), she held a family reunion in August in the Aledo, Monmouth IL area. An amazingly resilient Bruce lady!

Report of the Annual Meeting, June 26, 1999 (Continued)

Genealogist Erlene Davis submitted her Report as follows:

This year I will have completed five years as the genealogist for the Family of Bruce. Genealogical records have continued to flow in. Every new line received from our members helps just a little to fill in the blank spaces in our records. Lines from American Bruce immigrants are primarily what helps your Genealogist to assist our members.

Lines from King Robert I have been pretty well established, although occasionally a Royal line is disproved, as was the case with the line of American immigrant Anthony Colby, who it was thought earlier was a Bruce descendent and of Royal heritage.

In response to my request, two members volunteered to help with the genealogy of our Septs Carruthers and Crosbie. Since Carlyle had already been covered, that leaves only two Septs that need helpers: Randolph and Stenhouse. We also need a member who is willing to help with Canadian Bruce genealogy. If you are interested, please contact me.

In addition to answering many letters that dealt with genealogy, I compiled two articles for the Spring *Bannockburn*: "George Bruce of Woburn, Mass. And Five Generations of His Descendants" and "A Line from King Robert I to Gen. Alexander Spotswood" who immigrated to America and became Governor of Virginia, as well as Postmaster General of the American colonies. I also edited the Carruthers article.

* * * * *

Tricia McDaniel, Chair of the Scholarship Committee, sent the following Report:

I kept hoping that I would receive more essays for the Contest. My mother and I delivered the Essay rules to five area high schools that have an average of 2,000 students in each school. I thought for sure that we would receive some essays from them, but we did not.

I think we should discontinue the Scholarship and use the money elsewhere. Perhaps creating a web page for members and potential members is a viable option for the money. Meanwhile, I think you will enjoy reading the essays.

The First Place winner is Katherine Dixon – a familiar name as she was the First Place winner last year! The Second Place winner is Nathan Warner of Zimmerman, MN. The Third Place winner is Samantha Millar of Scarborough, Ontario.

(The winning Essay is printed elsewhere in this newsletter.)

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Scribe Ann Kallal sent a Report listing the Membership Certificates which she has issued to those members who have requested them from her.

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The President's Report included an exhaustive list of the Scottish Games and other events which she has attended since the last Annual Meeting. These include: Tam O'Shanter Scottish Games, Easton, MA; St. Andrews Society Scottish Games, Quechee, VT; Kirkin' O' The Tartan, Ellsworth, NH; New Hampshire Highland Games, Lincoln, NH; program on Scotland for Senior Citizens, Bristol, NH; Christmas Walk, Alexandria, VA; Hogmanay, Bristol, NH; Altrusa Scottish Night, Meredith, NH; invited to be present for Governor's signing of the Tartan Day Proclamation at the State House, Concord, NH; Tartan Day talk to Senior Citizens, Bristol, NH; talk on Robert the Bruce for XVII Century Dames, Manchester, NH; First Annual Scottish Games, Westerly, RI; and Fredericksburg Scottish Games, Fredericksburg, VA.

She compiled the 1999 Roster and distributed it at the Meeting and prepared the material for the Fall 1998 and Spring 1999 *Bannockburn*; proofread and mailed them out, and held regular meetings with Treasurer Frank Scammon.

Report of the Annual Meeting, June 26, 1999 (Continued)

The President announced that she is still working on a separate listing of the members' immigrant ancestors, and is kept busy with correspondence and filling sales orders.

It has been a tall job and she is looking forward to turning the office over to whomever succeeds her.

The Meeting concluded with New Business:

The search for a new President and National Officers; the question of how to continue the Scholarship program; announcement of our non-profit status from the IRS; the need for a Games Steward; and where to hold next year's Annual Meeting.

The Meeting adjourned at 4: p.m., and after dinner the video "The Bruce" was shown.

More Items of Interest

Virginia Convener Grace Karish and her friend, Peggy Marshall (#L1053) are busy with many organizations and charities. Grace heads up a fund-raiser to "Adopt a Chair" program, to sponsor courthouse chairs in honor of friends or relatives to benefit the Chesterfield Historical Society's refurbishment of the historic and newly renovated courthouse. Peggy made headlines in the *Washington Post* in July: "Descendant of the Family that Built Mansion Wants it Restored." The article goes on to state that Marshall Hall, across the Potomac from Mount Vernon, is now in ruins but Peggy is determined to have the National Park service rebuild it and turn it into a visitors Center. The Park Service spent some \$5 million to purchase Marshall Hall in 1974 but an arsonist has left little of the 18th century plantation mansion.

Bill Milne, 15 Brierley Close, Hornchurch, Essex, RM11 2BD, England, wrote that he had purchased a book "Land of Burns" by Wallace Bruce, published in Boston in 1879. He says it is an elegant book and he seeks information about the author. He writes "Somewhere someone has knowledge of him or his descendants. I ask if any in your Society can assist me to pay tribute to the author....." If anyone knows of the book or anything of the author (the Boston Public Library had never heard of him) please contact Mr. Milne. He will reimburse costs.

President Firth, on behalf of the Family of Bruce, has engaged the Strathspey and Reel Society of Concord, NH to put on another of their rousing concerts in Bristol, NH. The date is April 8, 2000, in honor of Tartan Day. Tickets are a mere \$8, obtainable from Mrs. Firth. This will be an event to remember! (And remember to wear your tartan on TARTAN DAY, April 6 – a national Holiday now by proclamation!)

FIFTH ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST

The year 1999 has been a crucial year for Scotland, with the opening of the first Scottish Parliament since 1707. Because of the magnitude of this event, it seemed appropriate to think of what King Robert the Bruce, whose efforts were directed toward establishing a free Scotland, might have to say to present-day Scotland. The winning essay was submitted by 18-year-old Kathrine Dixon of Alton, IL.

Her Essay follows.....

Fifth Annual Winning Essay

What would King Robert the Bruce Say to Modern Day Scotland?

Robert the Bruce, from the age of twenty-two when he gave up the boons of English favor to join in leading to independence the country of which he was rightful ruler, proved to be one of Scotland's most tenacious supporters. In the midst of the struggle for Scottish independence from England, Robert the Bruce, then the earl of Carrick and a follower of the English king, Edward I, made a crucial decision to join the side of his true people, the Scots. "No man holds his own flesh and blood in hatred," he said, "and I am no exception. I must join my own people and the nation in which I was born."

I believe that if Bruce were alive today, he would encourage his fellow Scotsmen to nourish this same spirit of nationalism—the value of and pride for Scotland and its people that encouraged Bruce to take any measures to preserve it. These measures began after a disastrous battle for the Scottish army at Falkirk which indicated that Scotland was doomed to lose her fight for freedom. At this point, it was Bruce who, along with John Comyn of Badenoch, took over Scottish Guardianship from William Wallace. Because of Bruce's resignation of this Guardianship in 1299, historians have argued Bruce's fidelity to the cause. However, it has been explained that Bruce abnegated his position because the Comyns, pledged to John Balliol who ruled Scotland without regard to Bruce's claim, were his sworn enemies, and that Bruce's strategy was to regain King Edward's favor and then to use his support to destroy both Balliol and the Comyns. Though Bruce risked his life by feigning loyalty to England he was spurred by one goal—to lead a new rebellion with himself as Scotland's prospective King. In this way, Bruce could restore Scotland to its rightful owners, the Scottish people.

In 1306, after the followers of William Wallace had surrendered in 1304, Bruce commenced, with the murder of John Comyn and his own self-coronation, the revolution he had secretly planned. His bravery and patriotism during the twenty years of rebellion that followed cannot be denied. However, though the nationalist Bruce might move the people of today to set their country and their freedom above all at any cost, Bruce the leader in peace would also encourage other admirable characteristics. For example, the fact that Bruce did not abuse his victory after he secured the liberty of Scotland following a 1328 treaty at Edinburgh shows his generous and forgiving nature. Historian John Barbour, in his accounts of Bruce, recounted qualities of a pious, patient, and purposeful monarch—in fact, he says, "for better governour than he mycht in na cuntre fundyn be"—"there is no better king to be found in all the country." These characteristics have instilled respect for Bruce in the hearts of generations of Scots. Therefore, it may be said that if the King were to speak to Scottish people today, he would find many willing listeners.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Kathrine Dixon is eighteen years old and a senior at Alton High School in Alton, Illinois. She is fascinated with everything Scottish because of her Scottish heritage, and, as a result, has been a Scottish dancer for eleven years—she is now a premier-level dancer and has earned certification as an Associate Teacher of Scottish dancing from the British Association of Teachers of Dance. She has also, for several years, incorporated a love for Celtic music into dancing performances through fiddle music. Next year, she will be attending the University of Richmond in Richmond, Virginia where she will work toward a double degree in viola performance and English. Sometime during or after college, she hopes to study abroad at the University of Edinburgh as part of their Viola Studies program or at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland—both inspired by a trip she took this past summer to the British Isles.

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AMERICAN BRUCE PATRIOTS

There is plenty of evidence that Bruces served with distinction in the American Revolution. Here is a list of those Bruces who supported the colonists and the ranks they held in the War:

DAR PATRIOT INDEX - CENTENNIAL EDITION

BRUCE:

Abner: b 5-6-1754 MA d 12-19-1790 MA m Mrs. Abigail (Luce) Rowlee Sgt MA
Alexander Sr: b --- VA d a 2-4-1796 VA m (1)Dorothy --- (2)Ann Penick PS VA
Arnold: b 1759 NC d 1817 TN m Elizabeth --- Pvt NC
Ara: b 1759 d 2-20-1833 NY m Hannah Wilder Sgt VT
Benjamin Jr: b 8-19-1759 MA d 9-11-1839 NY m Philadelphia Wheeler Pvt MA
Benjamin: b c 1750 d p 1810 KY m Mildred (Milly) Watts Pvt VA
Charles: b 7-15-1754 MA d 2-11-1785 MA m Mercy Gilbert Sgt PS MA
Charles: b 1-12-1742 VA d 1-21-1832 NC m Elizabeth (Betty) Benton PS NC
Charles: b c 1738 ST d p 1-17-1802 PA m X Pvt PA
Charles: b 1740-45 VA d 1820 SC m Margaret Ramsey Sol SC
Charles: b c 1735 VA d 1792 VA m (1)Diana Banks (2)Frances Stubblefield Capt VA
Daniel Sr: b 2-22-1701 MA d c 1790 MA m Bathsheba Bowker Pvt MA
Daniel Jr: b 9-21-1752 MA d p 1805 m Mary Bruce Cpl MA
Donald: b 1742 ST d 1795 SC m (1)Jane Lockhart (2)Margaret Lockhart PS SC
Elijah: b 1-20-1760 MA d 5-16-1835 VT m Abigail Whitney Pvt MA VT
George: b 1765 NC d 1855 GA m Sarah Cole Pvt NC
George: b c 1758 VA d 11- -1808 KY m Temperance Colvard Cpl VA
James: b 1759 ST d 3-8-1822 TN m Lucretia Gaines Sol NC
James Sr: b c 1720 ST d c 1795 KY m Margaret McHachen Ens VA
James Jr: b 4-2-1760 VA d 1-6-1835 IN m Mary Runyan PS VA
Jesse: b 2-16-1749/50 MA d 1-31-1826 VT m Anne Benton Pvt MA PNSR
John: b 3-12-1729 MA d 6-4-1779 NH m Mary Joslyn Sgt MA
John: b 5-27-1744 MA d 2-13-1843 MA m Martha Moore MM MA
John: b 11-30-1745/6 MA d 10-13-1824 MA m Temperance Packard Pvt MA
John: b 4-30-1748 VA d 4-3-1827 KY m Elizabeth Clay Sgt VA
John Sr: b --- d a 10-21-1816 VA m X PS VA
Joseph: b 8-19-1759 MA d 9-13-1849 VT m Ruth Lowell Sgt MA PNSR
Moses: b 9-24-1744 MA d p 1787 VT m Sarah --- MM MA
Norman: b 1740 ST d 4-25-1811 MD m Susanna Gardiner Key Col CS MD
Reuben: b 5-8-1751 MA d 7-31-1839 VT m (1)Lois Pike (2)Lucy Rice Pvt MA PNSR
Robert: b c 1730 d 10-16-1795 NC m Elizabeth Kimbrough PS NC
Thomas: b 3-10-1757 MA d 5-2-1819 NH m Susanna Wyman Sgt MA
Thomas: b 1759 ST d 3-8-1822 TN m Lucy Gaines Pvt NC
Timothy: b c 1732 d 1-3-1787 MA m Susannah Joslin Pvt MA
Timothy Jr: b 8- -1752 MA d 1-24-1843 NH m Mathilda Wheeler Pvt MA WPNS
William: b 6-10-1759 VA d 3-5-1842 KY m (1)Hannah Morgan (2)Catherine Gaines Pvt NC PNSR
William: b 9-20-1762 VA d 1832 OH m Frances Lewis Pvt PA
William: b 2-14-1745 MD d 8-20-1818 KY m (1)Polly Lucas Perciful (2)Sarah Harris Capt PA
William: b 1752 VA d a 1- -1814 VA m Annie Ballard Sgt VA

BOOKS and BOOK NEWS

From our Member, Mary Davidson, who is also our Western Canada Commissioner, comes information on two books written by Anthony Bruce. Ms. Davidson met the author recently, and I quote from her letter to our President: "While speaking with him, I said I was sending the reviews on his books to the Family of Bruce Society and suggested that I would show him the newsletter so he might feel like joining the Family. He just laughed, but you never know." Following are the reviews, and we welcome Mr. Bruce to our pages.

LOCAL NOVEL GOES NATIONAL (*Victoria Times-Colonist*)

The Regional buyer for Chapters book stores (in Canada) was so gripped by a locally published novel, *The East Wind*, it will be on sale in stores across Canada.

Self-published by Saltspring Island author Anthony Bruce, the book is an adventure story set in the Gulf Island and in the Namib desert in southwest Africa. Bruce was born and raised in central Africa. This is his second novel.

He continues to write, and his readers will be watching for more international thrillers.



Anthony Bruce

And don't forget President Ernestine Firth's romantic novel set in 1901 Boston suburb, **TWICE FOR MELISSA**, can be ordered from her for \$13.00 postpaid!

Bruce writes compelling thriller (*Driftwood*)

By VALORIE LENNOX
Driftwood Staff

"For all of his adult life, he had been aware that only those who dared ever succeeded. Most people only dream great dreams but made no attempt to put in the effort required to achieve them."

So muses David Mornay, the "wounded tiger" of Salt Spring writer Anthony Bruce's just-published thriller, *To Taunt a Wounded Tiger*.

There's more than a touch of the 57-year-old Bruce in Mornay: the two men are of the same generation, both live on Salt Spring farms, both have a background in mining and spent time in Africa.

And, like Mornay, Bruce believes in daring to dream great dreams and putting in the effort to make those dreams happen.

Bruce's dream is to write gripping thrillers which enthrall readers while introducing them to new concepts. This, his first book, turns a plane hijacking by terrorists on its ear when Mornay retaliates by making hostages of the terrorists' political leaders.

The result is a terse war of nerves between Mornay and the terrorists, complicated by international rescue efforts to save both the hijacked passengers and Mornay's hostages. Bruce pulls no punches in drawing grim conclusions from his characters' desperation and determination: death hovers over the tarmac with the hijacked 747 and in the elegant Empress Hotel room with the bound political hostages.

Media reports mirror the action throughout, breaking up the chapters which flip from scene to scene.

These switching scenes underline the chief weakness of the book: too many threads are tracked, weakening the main strands. *To Taunt a Wounded Tiger* resembles a made-for-TV thriller with lots of action but little character development.

Especially in the early pages of the book, Bruce tends to tell his readers about his characters rather than show who they are. The result is stock outlines instead of people whose lives are unique and therefore important to the reader.

This is especially true of the protagonist David Mornay — the semi-retired Canadian mining engineer who leaves his quiet farm in the Fulford Valley to take eight U.N. delegates hostage — whose character needed to be drawn deep-

er in order to engage the reader's understanding and sympathy for his actions.

Author Bruce admits he is still polishing his craft. He finds writing is a learning experience and plans to continue "until I get as good as some of the authors I'm presently reading."

To Taunt a Wounded Tiger is a promising start. Beyond the first two dozen pages, the tale warms into a compelling thriller, the plot is clever and the backgrounds and technical detail are superb.

In July, Bruce plans to release his second book, *The East Wind*, and he is now working on a third book and a few short stories. He spends between two and five hours a day writing, with some gaps in his schedule. "Sometimes I don't write at all for weeks and weeks and weeks. You get snowed up in life."

An Edmonton mass publisher was willing to publish both books but Bruce elected to self-publish instead. "The conditions in the contract were too onerous so I said I'd publish myself."

He had already researched self-publishing while sending the manuscript out to publishers and balked at putting up the money requested by the Edmonton company for new authors. Although he understood asking for financial backing from new authors is a growing trend in the publishing industry, Bruce felt he was better off launching himself.

So he found an editor, arranged to have the book typeset, the artwork done and a printer in Winnipeg to produce 1,000 copies of the book. Those have been distributed to island stores and sent out for reviews.

"It's moving quite well," he said. "The response is pretty good." Among the responses is a review from Arthur Black, which recommends the book "to anyone who enjoys a good thriller" and comments from University of Victoria author Anthony Jenkins, who describes the book as "a fast-paced thriller that links the politics of three continents."

For Bruce, getting his first book out meant cashing in his life insurance policy. But he recognizes that and the hours he spends writing are part of the price to transform great dreams into reality.

"In 20 years' time, I might write a great book," he said.

Please Pardon Our Scottishness

By Frank R. Shaw, FSA Scot, editor Clach na Faire "The Stone of the Watch" - (from The Family Tree)

One thing our parents taught us was not to forget where we came from, and from time to time some of us need to be reminded of that bit of information from our past. In this case, I am talking about our ancestors of yesteryear and the land they loved. Some are content to belong to a Scottish group that chooses not to acknowledge or associate with Chief, Clan or Land. Let me hasten to say that is their right. If they choose not to recognize the historical Scottish tradition, that is their privilege. Yet, failure to do so while wearing Scottish clothes, walking the walk, and talking the talk appears to be a little hollow sounding. There is something missing.

We make no apology for being a Scottish publication, for dressing the part, talking the talk or walking the walk! We are proud of our Scottish heritage and history, our Scottish origin and tradition. It is an honor to tell you how we feel about our relationship to the Chief, Clan and land, and for lack of a better word, we choose to use the word, *Scottishness*, which sort of states how we feel about our Chief, Clan and Land that we cherish and are so important to us.

Here is a partial list of things we do to exhibit our Scottishness: we wear the Scottish kilt, pin on the Chief's Crest; we strap on a belt with the same crest (which is encircled by the clansman's belt to show our loyalty to and recognition from our Chief and Clan); we play the bagpipes; we belong to Scottish societies; we attend and participate in Scottish/Highland games, ceilidhs, Kirkin' of the Tartan, Highland competition in athletic and dancing events; we dress the part for Burns Night and Hogmanay; we attempt to toss the caber; we love the pipe and drum corps presentations and parades; we study Scottish history and share what we learn with others; we send our money to *The Scottish Banner*, *The Highlander* and *The Family Tree*. (Ed. Note: and *The Bannockburn*)

We sign our letters with "Yours Aye"; we go over to Scotland if we are lucky; we name our newsletters with Scottish/Gaelic names; we purchase CDS by Scottish singers; we listen to the wonderful Scottish Fiddle Orchestra; we crochet Scottish terriers; we wear eight yards of 16 ounce wool in 90-degree heat; we stick knives into our socks; our friends tease that we wear a purse with a skirt; we buy Scottish calendars and paintings; we drink from Scottish crystal; we cook Scottish dishes; we bring dozens of pictures back from Scotland; we are frugal, if not outright "tight", and being a good Scot, we may have a "wee dram" or two of whisky; we fly the gold Rampant Lion flag; we worship a dish few of us eat that is brought into the banquet hall escorted by piper and presented by the high bass while being protected by guards; we do all of these wild, crazy Scottish things because we love them and somehow feel they are a part of our Scottishness that builds camaraderie and "esprit de corps" and binds us closer together as friends and cousins. They are, as the song says, "hands across the water."

Now, can you imagine doing all of the above in the name of a Scottish group with no roots in Scotland? No Chief? No Clan? No (Scot) Land? No (Mother) Land?

A little item from The Family Tree:

CUT THIS OUT AND SAVE

Most countries have their own naming customs, but the Scots had a very highly developed system of naming children. It went:

The eldest son is named after the paternal grandfather. **The 2nd son** is named after the maternal grandfather. **The 3rd son** is named after the father. **The eldest daughter** is named after the maternal grandmother. **The 2nd daughter** is named after the maternal grandmother. **The 3rd daughter** is named after the mother. **Subsequent children** would be named after earlier forebears.

KILT WEARING MADE EASY

The kilt is a Celtic wrap garment, that in Scotland is of a tartan plaid, and in Ireland is of a plain color. It is worn in the Romantic style of ancient Victorian dress, in the Colonial style of long waistcoat/vest or in the modern version with a shirt and sweater.

The Highland great Kilt is not just thrown on, it takes a few minutes to arrange the folds, then belt it on, but can be accomplished in a matter of minutes once the concept is understood.

You need a piece of yard goods, 58-60 inches wide by 4 or more yards long. The ancient kilt was made of a very loose weave, doubled over and worn, and could be made up of as much as 16 yards! A 5-yard kilt of wool is more than plenty.

Proceed as follows: on a clear space, be it bed or floor, lay out the kilt. Place your belt under the cloth as in #2. Fold the material in even pleats following the plaid, if you wish, leaving unfolded ends the width from hipbone to hipbone. Now lay down on the cloth where you want the length to be, fold in your dominant hand side first, then fold over the opposite side as #4 and #5 show. Buckle the belt to hold the kilt on, then stand up. If you have done it right, you will look like #7!

Reach down and pick the corner of the lower front section and fold it around the same side and tuck it in, repeating on the other side. Put on your vest, coat, and you are ready!

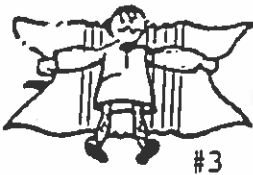
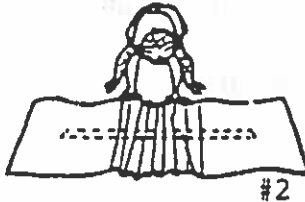
There are variations in the wrap and the pinning of the over skirt part of the kilt, all of which were probably tried by the ancient wearers of this garment.

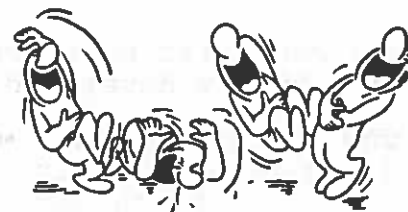
The female version of this same item of dress is worn with the skirt part longer than the cape half and is pinned over the left shoulder if you are married, or over the right if you are available, or over both for warmth, or on the breast to make a shawl/hood.

This is a very attractive, versatile garment for many reasons, weathers, and seasons. In the winter it was dipped in water and allowed to freeze on the outside, which created a barrier from the cold breezes, keeping in body heat.

Wear your kilt in GOOD HEALTH!

From Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Stevens
Living History Interpreters of Medieval & Colonial Times
Officers of 78th Fraser's Highland Reenactment Regiment
and Scottish Society of Indianapolis, IN.
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"Your Ancestors Came Over on the What?"

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

The Officers and Members of the Family of Bruce Society extend a warm welcome to the following new Members who have joined us since the Spring 1999 issue of the *Bannockburn* was printed:

- #F1154 Mr. & Mrs. James Robert Priester, Jr.
and daughter Samantha Louise,
of North Wilkesboro, NC
- #1155 Mrs. John Wilson (Elizabeth J.), of St. Charles, MI
- #1156 Mr. Dale A. Carlisle of Stoddard, NH
- #1157 Mrs. Grace Murray Steffan Fedor of Twinsburg, OH
- #1158 Mrs. Edward L. Williams (Marguerite Fraser Jenkins),
of Walterboro, SC
- #1159 Mrs. William B. Leland (Emily Wilkinson Jenkins),
of Wadmalaw Island, SC
- These last two ladies are sisters of Member Boone Jenkins McKoy, #1141
- #1160 Shirley Green Covington of Fredericksburg, VA

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