

Volume 50 Issue 3 The Buchanan Banner July 2019

BUCHANAN CELTIC CEREMONY SET FOR THE FALL OF 2020 AT CAMBUSMORE

Paula, The Lady Buchanan writes, "We are delighted to announce that plans are now underway for the possible revival of a very old Celtic Ceremony for the Investiture of the 20th Chief of the Clan Buchanan, sometime in the fall of 2020.

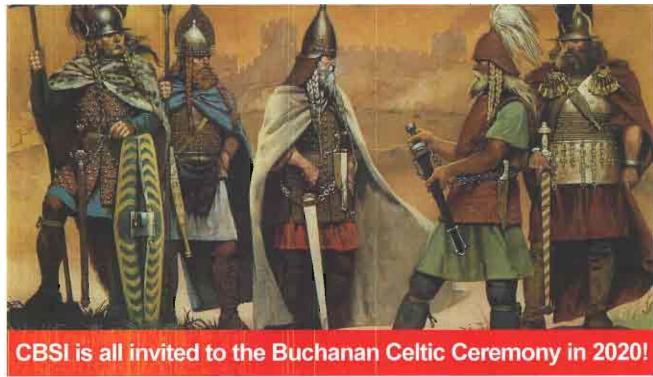
The events will be held at Cambusmore, our family home on Cambusmore Estate, Scotland, near Callander.

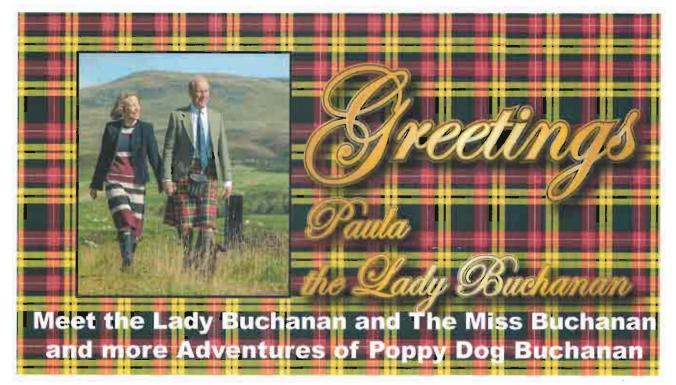
Dr Joseph John Morrow KStJ, QC, DL, the current Lord Lyon, has accepted an invitation to the Celtic Ceremony and will be in attendance.

This ceremony would involve many of the

ancient traditional and hereditary symbols of Chiefship such as a historic family sword, a white rod, a seal, head wear, chair and stone, complete with much pomp and ritual.

Everyone who can attend will have the chance to play a part of a number of different ancient ceremonies, as described by Sir Thomas Innes of Learny, a former Lord Lyon and authority on these matters. Seating will be limited, but anyone may attend. Ticket prices will be forthcoming as well as details about purchasing tickets and a complete





I would like to introduce myself.

I am a medical doctor, training at Charing Cross and Westminster University London where I gained my MBBS qualifications.

After qualifying I worked for a few years in various different hospitals in various different medical specialities in England.

However, I was fascinated by MRI imaging and so I went to Oxford University to study for my PhD in this field (except at Oxford they like to be a bit different and they call it a DPhil).

It was when I was there that I first met Mike at a sporting event.

In about a year we were engaged.

Soon after Mike participated in the Commonwealth Games representing Scotland, we then got married in Oxford, at the beautiful and historic Christ Church Cathedral.

By a coincidence, Christchurch was Mike's former college and my existing one.

Following that I found myself whisked

off to Scotland to live in a wee cottage on the Cambusmore estate. Haha, it rained every day for the first three months after I moved there. I just remember thinking how absolutely beautiful the countryside all was there.

After having our first two children, Angus and Bruce, I became fascinated by reseach into the effects of toxic chemicals on our health. I ended up writing several books on my discovery that synthetic chemicals were making people fatter as well as all the major roles these chemicals play in all the modern health disorders.

Since then I have spent my time looking into discovering all the natural ways to improve health to reverse the damage chemicals are having on us all, as well as adding Lucy and Rory to our family!

Now with Mike becoming the Chief, I look forward to supporting him in this role.

PRESIDENT

David Byrne, President, CBSI

fter 335 years without a Clan Chief we are starting to see the effect a Chief can have on a Clan in the modern era.

Michael and his family will be joining our members at a Buchanan Clan Gathering at the New Hampshire Highland Games in September.

Almost immediately following that event Michael and Paula (The Lady Buchanan) will set off for Australia to join the Clan there at the Canberra Highland Games and to lead them into the Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Sydney.

Paula will stand in for the Chief at the Luss Highland Games in Luss, Scotland on the shores of our beloved Loch Lomond. This is the first time the Society will be represented at a Highland Games in Scotland.

I thank George McAusland our Commissioner for the U.K. for his work on arranging our participation.

When NHSCOT, the organization that runs the New Hampshire Highland Games, learned that our Chief would be attending they immediately invited Michael to serve as Honorary Chieftain of the Games. They then named Buchanan the Honored Clan.

They have extended Michael and his family many courtesies and having him present at an event that is regularly attended by over 45,000 people will add greatly to the prestige of our Clan.

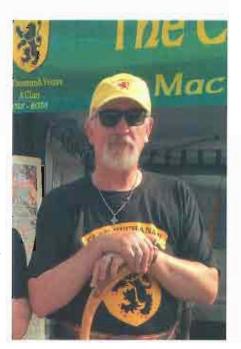
Our members have responded as well. Over 50 of us will support the Chief at the formal Tartan Dinner on Friday night. Another 75 will join Michael and his family at the Society dinner on Saturday night.

How many more of our clan folk will attend the games to show their support of our new Chief, I could only guess.

Michael and Paula have included armigers and representatives of the Society, in Scotland, the USA and Australia in discussions as they plan for The Buchanan's formal Inauguration next year. The date is not known at this time, but the event will be at their home, Cambusmore, in Callander, Scotland.

This historic estate and chapel will be the perfect setting for this ancient and traditional ceremony. Details will be made available soon and all Buchanan Clan members will be invited to attend.

As the years progress we will learn more how our Clan and our Chief will grow in honor together. But if current events are any indication, the future of the Clan is bright.



A letter to Clan Buchanan...



Dear Beth:

I am writing to thank you for the extraordinary effort that you are putting forth to edit and publish our Society's News magazine. It is truly a joy to the eyes of this reader and greatly appreciated.

It was some forty four years ago, during the summer of 1975, that my wife (Charlotte) and I assisted the first editor/publisher of the *Banner*, Louis McCaslin and his wife (Mary), type, copy, staple, fold, address, stamp and mail Volume 1, number 1 of the *Banner*. Like many, many other issues to follow it was in black and white, typed, and saddle-stitched. It was a labor of love. I sense that feeling in each issue I receive from you, lo these many years later.

In this regard, I have noticed that on the page containing the list of "luminaries" of the Society you list the names of the Past Presidents of the CBSI. Reflecting on that little list, I felt compelled to write this diatribe to you.

As you know, before there was a CBSI there was a CBSA and it had its Presidents who, along with their Executive Councils, worked hard to help create the Society as we know it today. I wanted you to know who they were and when they served, not to have their names published or to receive any form of recognition – but just so that you would know.

I firmly believe that we must always "gather the pieces – lest they be lost."

THEY ALSO SERVED the CBSA BEFORE THERE WAS A CBSI

- ♦ Fred H. Buchanan the first "Convener" of the Society 1970-1974
- Byron C. Gibson "temporary Convener" upon the passing of Fred (1974)
- Dr. Arren C. Buchanan, Jr. President, 1974-1976
- ♦ Louis B. McCaslin, Jr. President, 1976-1983
- ♦ Lt. Col. (ret) George S. G. Buchanan, President, 1983-1985
- ♦ Louis B. McCaslin, Jr., President, 1985-1987
- ♦ Harold T. Townend, President, 1987-1989
- ♦ John Watson, President, 1989-1993

George S. (Steve) Buchanan, CBSA and CBSI – 1993 (I think) till – not known by me. There may have been others between Steve and Lloyd Gibson......

Then your list of Past presidents carries it forward.

I earnestly hope that you will continue your effort with the *Banner*, it is the glue that holds the society together. Again, thank you and best wishes for your good health and well being.

Sincerely and respectfully, Harold T. Townend

htownend70@gmail.com

366 Chi Chi Circle, Hemet, CA 92545

(951) 325-2274

Thank you, Mr. Townend, for your most kind letter and for your kind words. On the next page, you'll see the box that will be a part of the Banner from now on.



They also served the Clan Buchanan Society of America <u>before</u> there was a Clan Buchanan Society, International!

- Fred H. Buchanan the first "Convener" of the Society – 1970-1974
- Byron C. Gibson "temporary Convener" upon the passing of Fred (1974)
- Dr. Arren C. Buchanan, Jr. -President, 1974-1976
- ◆ Louis B. McCaslin, Jr. President, 1976-1983
- Lt. Col. (ret) George S. G. "Buck" Buchanan, President, 1983-1985 & 1994
- Louis B. McCaslin, Jr., President, 1985-1987
- Harold T. Townend, -President, 1987-1989
- John Watson, President, 1989-1993

Celtic Singers of New Mexico sing at the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival in May 2019

Michele Buchanan,

author of Scota's Harp.

The Celtic Singers of New Mexico performed at our local Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival May 4 and 5 this year.

It was a new venue, at the Rotary Park in Bernalillo, New Mexico.

The weather was perfect with a striking clear blue sky. On Sunday morning around eight, we looked up, and saw two jet contrails form the St.Andrew's Cross in the air over our field.

People just stood in awe, staring at the vision, which lasted a good ten minutes. Needless to say, we had an excellent festival this year, our 31st.

Attached is a photo of our group of singers, formed in 2001, of course we sang *Flower of Scotland*.



If anyone knows of other presidents who served during this time, please let me know. Just email < bethscribble@aol.com>.

If you are a quilter you need to know these things!

Some of the superstitions and traditions regarding quilts make amusing reading today. However, it's best not to take any chances and follow these customs anyway!

- 1. In the old days, unmarried boys and girls gathered around a bridal quilt and tossed a cat on it. The person closest to where the cat landed would be the next married.
- 2. It was an old fact that, if a girl had not made a quilt by the time she is 21, no man would want to marry her.
 - 3. Back then, using the marriage symbols of



hearts, cupids, doves or love knots on a quilt before the girl was officially engaged was to court spinsterhood or a broken engagement.

4. A vine or cable appliqued or quilted along the border of a bride's quilt must not be broken, because a break in the design foretold a marriage marred by tragedy or a life cut short by disaster.

Puns? Puns? Who likes puns?

Seems that a Clan Chiefs daughter was offered as a bride to the son of a neighboring Chief in exchange for two cows and four sheep. The big swap was to happen on the shore of the stream that separated the two clans.

Father and daughter showed up at the appointed time only to discover that the groom and his livestock were on the other side of the stream.

The father grunted, (Here it comes...) "The fool doesn't know which side his bride is bartered on."

(It is a fact that smart, intelligent folks love puns!)





Page 6 The Buchanan Banner July 2019

Clan Buchanan Society International Inc.

Welcomes Michael Buchanan, Chief of the Name and Arms of Buchanan

to our 2019 Meeting and Gathering of the Clan September 20-22, 2019

The New Hampshire Highland Games and Festival Loon Mountain, Lincoln, New Hampshire

Schedule of Buchanan Clan Events

for a complete schedule of the festival go_to www.nhscot.org
Event times are subject to change.
Please always check the schedule at the Clan Tent.

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Buchanan Tent Conveners: David and Marianne Byrne

and Richard and Madeleine Byrne

Host for the Games: New Hampshire Regent **Taylor Byrne**Official Buchanan Piper for the Games: **Scott Buchanan**, Canada
Sergeant at Arms - **Bill McQuatters**, Texas Commissioner

- The Highland Games and Festival is open 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM daily. Shuttle service is provided from hotels, campgrounds and clearly marked parking lots throughout North Woodstock and Lincoln. There is NO on site parking. There are specially designated handicap lots off site with appropriate shuttles. (Additional ticketed concert events are available Friday and Saturday evening. All musicians who perform will also perform during the day included with your admission)
- Tickets and complete festival details are available on line at <www.nhscot.org> The organizers have made available to our clan members a special discounted price of \$30.00 for a 3 day weekend pass. This price is only in effect until June 30. Enter coupon code "BUCH" when checking out on line. Purchased tickets will be mailed to you.
- The Clan Buchanan has been named Honored Clan and will occupy a pavilion tent in the center of the Clan Village from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM daily. Clan members and their guests are always welcome and can use the tent as the focal point of their festival activities. A variety of Buchanan Black Lion apparel and Black Lion items will be on sale throughout the games as long as supplies last.
- FRIDAY Sept 20. Tent opens at 8:00 AM. Enjoy all the festival events during the day.
- Tartan Dinner and Ball at the Loon Mountain Club Friday evening on site. Cocktail hour begins at 6:00 PM and Dinner at 7:00 PM. Our Chief, Michael Buchanan, will be introduced as Honorary Chieftain of the Games. This is a formal to semi-formal ticketed event with a limited number of seats. Tickets are available at <www.nhscot.org> If you buy tickets please inform us so we can reserve enough tables for our group to sit together. Email <info@theclanbuchanan.com>

SATURDAY Sept 21 Tent opens at 8:00 AM

- 11:00 AM Assemble at the Buchanan Clan Tent to prepare to march as a group into the opening ceremonies. We are allowed to march as many members as we wish. The clans will be piped into the Opening Ceremonies at 11:20 AM. If you have a Black Lion Flag bring it with you. If you have a pole to carry it even better! We will have a few extra poles at the tent.
- 12:30 PM Reassemble at the Clan Tent After the Call of the Clans we will return and assemble at the Clan Tent for a Buchanan Clan photo with our Chief. This will be followed by a reception with The Chief and his family and a light lunch compliments of the CBSI. This time is approximate and we will begin when the opening ceremonies are complete.
- The rest of the day enjoy the many festival events.
- Introduction of our Chief: CBSI Sponsored dinner at Chef Joe's Bistro, 651 Main Street, Françonia.
- Join us as we open the New England version of the "Black Lion Pub" on Saturday at 7:00 PM cocktails dinner at 7:30 PM :a casual BBQ buffet dinner in Chef Joe's renovated New England barn. Kilts and tartan of course are encouraged. This will be the Society's official introduction of Michael and Paula Buchanan and their children to our members. Tickets are \$40.00 per person and must be purchased in advance. Seating is limited to 75 so reserve early. Contact <info@theclanbuchanan.com> if you wish to attend. An invoice will be emailed to you for payment by credit/debit. Gluten free is available.

SUNDAY Sept 22 - Clan Tent will open at 8:00 AM

- 9:45 AM Church Service and Kirkin 'o the Tartans in the concert tent. As Honored Clan our tartan will be featured at the service.
- 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM Meeting with our Chief Michael Buchanan in the Clan Tent. Includes a brief Clan meeting.
- The rest of the day enjoy the festival events.
- 4:00 PM Closing Ceremonies in the parade square. Join our Chief as he officially closes the games.
- 4:30 PM Clan Tent closes.

This is one of North America's premier Scottish events with a full schedule of athletics, music, competitions and pageantry. For a complete list go to <www.nhscot.org>



"Of all the small nations of this earth, perhaps only the ancient Greeks surpass the Scots in their contributions to mankind."

Winston Churchill

Celtic Ceremony, continued from page 1 -

program of events.

We also plan to hold the first ever Buchanan Clan Parliament in recent times, to give everyone a chance of taking part in determining the future direction for the Clan Buchanan.

There may also be an opportunity for people to go to many of the lesser known historic sites related to my husband's ancient and historic family lines of the Buchanans of Arnprior and Leny, as well as to some of the better known sites of great historic significance such as Clairinch and on the Buchanan Castle estate.

Details of the upcoming Celtic Ceremony will be published in the *Buchanan Banner* as well as other Scottish publications as everyone who wishes may come to be a part of this historic and unique Celtic Ceremony."

If you are considering coming in person to the 2020 Celtic Celebration in Scotland, please visit https://www.theclanbuchanan.com/inauguration and leave your name and contact information so that you may receive further information about the ceremonies as it is available.



Beth's Newfangled Family Tree

https://electricscotland.com/

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Free queries! Free Flowers of the Forest, plus, you may forward it,

Free, to any of your friends or family!





Bryan L. Mulcahy, MLS

Just about everyone who has Scottish ancestors also has Irish family as well. Remember, for many, many years, Scots could get free land in Ireland. Families traveled to Ireland and may have re-

mained there for generations...or, a few months.

Genealogical research into the lives of Irish ancestors can provide interesting background details, such as unique traditions and folklore. Ireland and its people have a fascinating history. Unfortunately, the survival and accuracy of many records can also present some challenges.

The Fort Myers Regional Library offers a variety of study guides covering the process of tracing Irish ancestors in the United States and Ireland. Patrons may request these guides by contacting us via the email address listed at the end of this article. Our Genealogy Room print collection on Ireland has over 250 titles. There are at least 100 other items in our State and General collections containing information pertaining to Irish research. Databases such as Ancestry Library Edition, Family Search, and Heritage Quest also offer access to various aspects of Irish research.

The points listed below will help make the research process convenient and more successful:

- Do not begin your search in Ireland.
- Exhaust all possible records in the United States and Canada first.
- Pay special attention to religious records since they are the most detailed and often were the first records in which immigrant ancestors appeared upon arrival in America.
- ◆ Pay special attention to any information pertaining to where they came from in Ireland. There are many Irish place names that may also appear later as townlands, towns, villages, baronies, and counties. These administrative divisions do not have the same jurisdictional meaning in Ireland as in the United States or Canada.
- Beware of changes in the spelling of surnames. Do not dismiss the record if the name spelling is not the same as the one with which you are familiar.
- ◆ Consult titles listed in bibliographies for additional sources of information. These books and articles have been written by specialists in genealogy.
- ◆ Folklore plays an important part in Irish history. Many early records, memories, photographs, etc., have been passed down through generations. If you have any elderly ancestors who came from the old country, it is in your best interest to arrange an oral history interview with them as soon as possible.

Bryan L. Mulcahy, Reference Librarian Fort Myers Regional Library: Email: bmulcahy@leegov.com>



Buchanan from Titirangi, Auckland, New Zealand, sent along these photos of himself and four more generations of his Buchanan family several years ago. I ran across it and thought

it would be lovely to include it in The Buchanan Banner.

Generation three is Robin and Claude Buchanan, son of Claude of generation two.

The Buchanan Banner July 2019 Page 11

few. weeks ago Lucy, The M S Buchanan, and I went to the wonderful dress designer, Ritva Westenius on Connaught Street in London.

Lucy had an appointment there to select a dress for this year's Queen Charlotte Ball in London, where she will be presented as a debutant. Fortunately the first dress Lucy tried on. was the one she just fell in love with.

> RITVA WESTENIUS LONDON



We have two family members who both have four legs, our Cocker Spaniels, Daisy, and our puppy, Poppy.

Poppy is 5 months old and is also of working cocker spaniel stock, who is a lovely puppy who makes a great deal of noise to sound really brave in endless playfights with Daisy, but in reality is a real scardycat. If anyone were to say "boo" to her, she would vamoose.

Poppy is metaphorically "in the dog house" with Mike as she has just chewed up his new driving licence!! It took him ages (almost 6 months) to get this hallowed document after changing his name to Buchanan (from Buchanan-Baillie-Hamilton) to claim the chiefship etc..and proving with numerous documents that he was still the same person. He had only just opened up the letter too!!! Haha..oops...

The drama of the driver's license almost over, just a few days ago, young Poppy thought she saw a flying chicken and must have eaten it.

Unfortunately for her it was not a typi-Continued on page 13



Page 12 The Buchanan Banner July 2019

Greetings from the Lady Buchanan,

continued from page 2



cal chicken as it was small, had black and yellow stripes on it and said "buzz."

So a few minutes later her head blew up to the size of a small ball due to the venom from the sting. The vets sorted it out promptly and it took a day or two for the swelling to go, but we got some pics of her looking puffy and very sheepish! (See photo page 12 and above.)

She was so upset, she refused to visit the vet without her best friend, Daisy.

She is aok now and hopefully won't eat/ bite another black and yellow striped "chicken."

Daisy, is now 7 years old and is a working cocker spaniel who is gun shy. So her main role is to be cute and to alert people when someone arrives at the house. She is also a willing stand in 'mummy' for Poppy and valiently puts up with a great deal of grief in this role.

I look forward to writing to you all again next time.

Aye, Paula The Lady Buchanan



Did ye ken?

...that in golf, a seaside location is called Golf Links and an inland location is called Golf Course?







David Byrne, president CBSI

An enthusiastic group of Buchanan's met in New York City on Tartan Day April 6 to march up 6th Ave and celebrate our heritage.

Members from as far away as California enjoyed a beautiful spring day in the Big Apple and the crowds were reported as being the largest ever for this great parade.

The day began at the Perfect Pint Pub where we enjoyed an ale and lunch before the parade be-

gan. We gathered on 45th Street with our Black Lion Banners held high. After a long walk up the avenue we enjoyed the post parade ceilidh.

This is always a fun day and we hope more Buchanans will join us next year.





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Page 14 The Buchanan Banner July 2019

CBSI 2019 Levon Watson Award presented to Beth Gay Freeman

The Executive Council of the Clan Buchanan Society International is very pleased to announce that the 2019 Levon Watson Award is being presented to Beth Gay Freeman FSA Scot.

Beth has tirelessly served the Clan Buchanan, the Society and the Scottish community in the United States for a long time.

Most recently she has been the editor of the *Buchanan Banner*, CBSI's quarterly magazine, and *Beth's Newfangled Family Tree* publication. She also creates *An Canach*, the publication of the Clan Henderson Society and *Craigellachie*, the publication of the Clan Grant Society.

Beth's career in marketing and public relations goes back many, many years. She has numerous "firsts" to her credit in a variety of positions with entities like Sears, Inc., (First woman ever hired in the advertising department at Sears), WMOP and WFUZ Radio (Among the first women to broadcast regular airshifts in Florida radio. Also, where she earned her Certified Radio Marketing Consultant certificate from the Radio Advertising Bureau in NYC.) and other local Florida radio stations and newspapers.

It was after these that Beth found her niche at the Ellen Payne Odom Genealogy Library in Moultrie, Georgia. Beth served as Public Relations Director for the Library for seventeen years. She was the creator, editor and photographer for *The Family Tree*, a Scottish/genealogical publication which reached over 100,000 subscribers via the USPS.

Her efforts with the Library helped numerous families to explore their Scottish roots. She worked with the Library as their Scottish Liason to gather the archives and genealogical records of over 135 Scottish clans, including the Clan Buchanan into the collection at the library.

She traveled extensively all over the United States representing the Odom Library and also presented genealogical speeches at numerous Scottish games. She has spoken at both Glasgow, Kentucky and Stone Mountain, Georgia games for the past 25 years or longer.

Beth is one of the first women ever initiated into the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem on her own merit.

She is also the only Dame in the Kingdome of Raknar, so named by King Brodir in 2018.

She and her friend, Marti Van Horn, escorted at least six trips to Scotland with, after the first trip, over half of the travelers who had



traveled with Beth and Marti either each time or at least one trip before.

For the past several years Beth has been the editor of the *Buchanan Banner*. She also publishes and distributes, free of charge, her own Scottish publication fondly known by its acronym *BNFT* which is visited online by about 300,000 people every month.

Seventeen Scottish Clans have now made Beth an Honourary Member of their organizations.

In presenting Beth with the Levon Watson award the Council is recognizing her many decades of contributions to the Scottish and Clan communities in the United States and worldwide in addition to her work for the CBSI.

Levon Watson was a founding member of the Clan Buchanan Society International, Inc. When she passed away she endowed a trophy which is presented biennially by the Society to an individual who has contributed significant, dedicated and important service to the Clan Buchanan Society International and the Scottish community in America. The award recognizes volunteer service to the Society as an officer (elected or appointed), or thru participation in CBSI sponsored events, or by participation as a CBSI representative at highland games, Scottish festivals and other events which promote the Society's purposes as outlined in the by-laws.

Beth will receive her trophy at the Stone Mountain Games in Georgia in October 2019.

Beth is married to Tom Freeman and lives in Clarkesville, Georgia.

The Buchanan and The Lady Buchanan attend the Glasgow, Scotland, Buchanan Society AGM and Annual Dinner

Paula, The Lady Buchanan

Here are some photos I took last night of the first time Mike and I have attended a Buchanan Society AGM and annual dinner. It was held in Glasgow at the Chardon d'Or private suite on the evening of the 18th of May 2019. About 40 members were in attendence and, from what I discovered, most of them had at one time been involved in the running of the Society, either as Preses or Director or Secretary or treasurer.

The current Preses (Chairperson) is Fiona Risk. She gave an introductory talk about the Buchanan society to all the new members who were attending the society dinner for the first time.

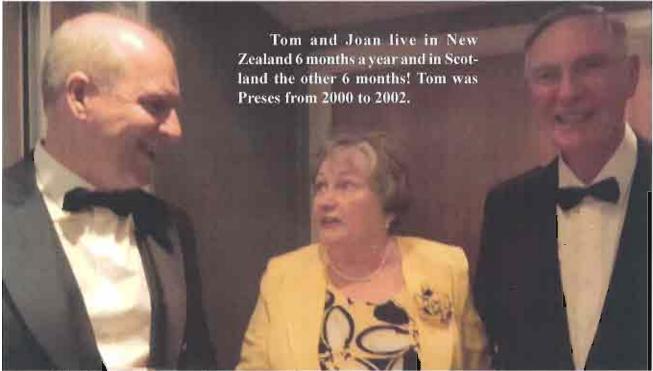
The Buchanan Society is the oldest clan society in the world and is purely a charitable body. It was formed in Glasgow, Scotland in 1725 over 40 years following the death of the last Buchanan Chief.

Its aim, then as now, was to support mem-

bers of the clan in financial hardship as well as to help provide grants for promising youth to enable them to attend University or otherwise.

Fiona then held one of the swiftest and most straightforwards AGM's that I have attended, with everyone in agreement on all points. By then, the delicious scent of our soon to arrive food was delicately wafting through the air and the already harmonious meeting seemed to go ever faster!

Keeping in the spirit of things, Mike then gave a brief talk before dinner, just really to introduce himself to those present. Then, after a really delicious dinner of French Scottish Fusion food, Baroness Goldie, the former leader of the Scottish Conservative party and current whip of the House of Lords, gave a very entertaining talk about naughty parrots amongst other things.



Page 16 The Buchanan Banner July 2019

Glasgow Buchanan Society AGM & Annual Dinner, continued from page 16 -



Just thought I would send you this as it shows more clearly the really lovely Chain of office worn by those who are the Preses of the Buchanan Society. Everyone who has ever been a Preses has had their name engraved on the chains, with the earliest people in the post having their names on the chains closer to the feature pendent bearing the arms of the Buchanan Society. Since the society is so old, there have had to be new links added to the chain to hold all the names of those who have held the post. This part of the chain has to be worn over the back as it is quite extensive.





The Buchanan Banner July 2019 Page 17

Lottsa folks having lottsa fun at San Antonio and Decatur



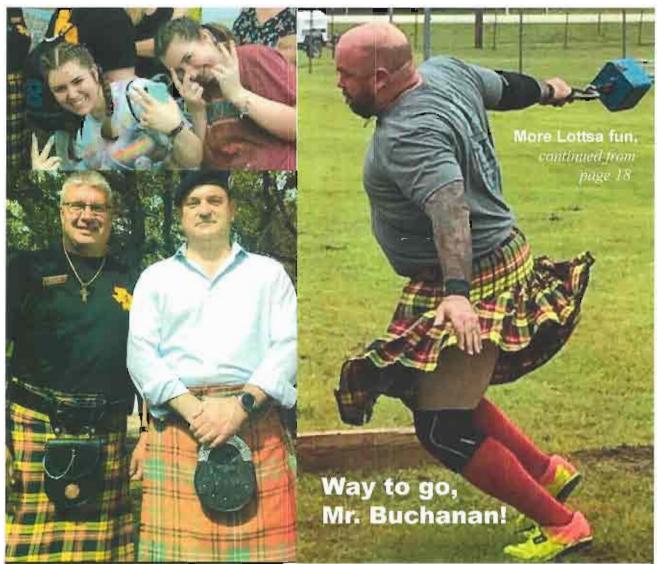
The Buchanan Banner is on Electric Scotland!

More on page 19

Thanks to our friend, Alastair McIntyre.

https://electricscotland.com/ familytree/newsletters/buchanan>

Visit at any time, as much as you wish. There is no charge in any direction.





Beth's Newfangled Family Tree

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Free queries! Free Flowers of the Forest, plus, you may forward it,
Free, to any of your friends or family!



Page 20 The Buchanan Banner July 2019

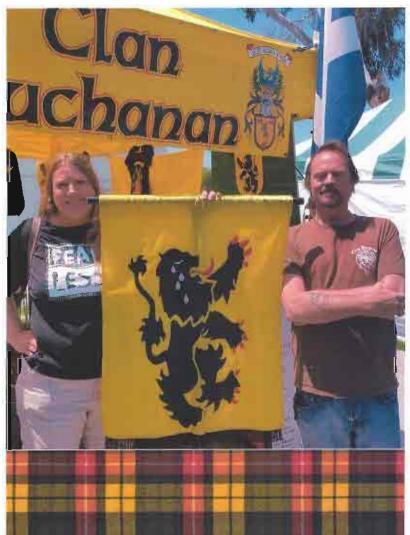


Craig R. Mathias, CPA, CGMA

We had a very successful weekend. In a rare instance, we had rain on Sunday, which caused a huge crowd to come on Saturday. The booth saw ten new individuals/families... some of which signed up at the games and others promised to do so online.

We've convened the games for about fifteen years and were encouraged that the Buchanan family of six recently moved to Orange County from Utah and were excited both to learn Clan history... and perhaps to help in the future.

We're so thankful for continued support of John Hamm at these games as well as that of our Commissioner, Paul Keener.





Craig Mathias, son TJ and two grandsons (Wyatt & Trevor

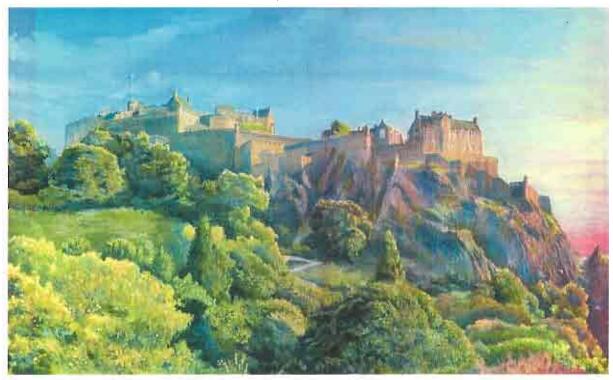


The Buchanan Banner July 2019 Page 21

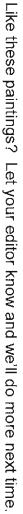
Paintings of Scotlish Castles



Paul Dier watercolour, no castle name mentioned



Andy McGuire painting of Edinburgh Castle





Eilean Donan Castle, Scotland, print of watercolour by John Menage



Manuel De Jesús Villalobos Avendaño, entitled Castle on a Scottish Loch

The 1746 Dress Act and its effect on the culture of the Gaidhealtachd

Jo Watson, postgrad research student at the Institute for Northern Studies, the University of the Highlands and Islands and contact at 18001073@uhi.ac.uk

Over the past few years I have had discussions with many folks online (usually on Facebook groups) about the 'tartan ban', of which there seems to be a general misapprehension. I would like to put that right today by sharing my research with you on the subject.

The Dress Act, part of the Act of Proscription (19 Geo. 2, c.39), came into force in Scotland on 1st August 1746. Section 16 of the Act made the wearing of "Highland clothes (that is to say) the Plaid, Philabeg, or little Kilt, Trowse, Shoulderbelts, or any part whatever of what peculiarly belongs to the Highland Garb; and that no tartan or party-coloured plaid of stuff shall be used for Great Coats or upper coats" illegal with the penalty of the first offence six months' imprisonment, or a second offence transportation to the colonies for

seven years. Previously, sumptuary laws had been enforced to reinforce social hierarchies, but the Act of Proscription had a much different goal; to enable the destruction of the clan system and to bring the Highlands under full control of the British. Unlike the disarming elements of the Act of Proscription which only applied to the Highlands of Scotland, the Dress Act applied to the whole of Scotland. However, as we will see later the law was unfairly applied and did, indeed, end up only being enforced on the lower classes of society. It was also only applied in some areas, with others being more lenient than others as we shall see later on. The Act was eventually repealed on 1st July 1782 with a proclamation issued in English and Gaelic.

Since the 1715 Jacobite uprising, tartan had become firmly associated with the Jacobite army despite the fact that a great number of Jacobite soldiers were not from the Highlands and the wearing of mixed tartans were very common, as can be seen in figure 1. (Scott 2018: 18 & 23)

David Morier's An Incident in the Rebellion

of 1745 (figure 1) was commissioned by the Duke of Cumberland a few months after the Hanoverian victory Culloden, clearly as a celebration of his victory. The painting depicts the battle at Culloden and Morier used imprisoned



Figure 1: detail from Morier, David (1745) An Incident in the Rebellion of 1745 (accessed from https://www.rct.uk/collection/ 401243/an-incident-in-the-rebellion-of-1745 on 2 December 2018)

Con't on page 25 Jacobite soldiers for his models (as well as British soldiers). The painting was given as a gift to Cumberland's father, George II, and remains in the Royal collection. Along with the blue bonnet and the white cockade, tartan clothing was seen as a part of the Jacobite 'uniform' and this was certainly the perception in England where caricatures portrayed Jacobites as thieving, lice-ridden savages who ate children (Craig, 2017) and ransacked villages, murdered men and dogs, and raped women (figure 2).

Hugh Cheape argues that "tartan and Highland dress, bracketed with weapons, had come to be regarded as an outward and visible manifestation of



Figure 2: detail from Van Duivel, Kind (1745) The Highland Visitors (accessed from www.loc.gov/pictures/item/91727491/ on 4 th December 2018)

Jacobitism and continuing loyalty to the Stuart dynasty in exile and, so, political treachery and law-lessness" (Cheape 2010: 449/6575). Pittock confirms that tartan was seen as a uniform rather than an ethnic identifier following the '45, and that tartan was chosen as the uniform of the Jacobites between the uprisings of 1689-1746 (Pittock, 2010:

920-970/6575).

Tartan was frequently parodied in both English satirical portraits of Highlanders and Prince Charles Edward, as well as used in plays on the London stage mocking Highlanders.

A contemporary satirical engraving of the Prince was clearly designed to mock Highland dress (figure 3). Scott supports this by arguing that visitors to the Highlands, whom she refers to as contemporary observers, were made to feel uncom-

fortable by Highland dress as it subverted 18th century norms of the Western European male's attire of an early form of the threepiece suit (Scott,

2018: 27). (Illustration next page.)

Although tartan was included in the Act of Proscription because it was seen as the uniform of a militarised minor cultural group by the dominant culture, it was also a form of dress which was at odds with the rest of the country/Western Europe.

Continued on page 28

How this article came to be here.

Hi Beth,

I've just been reading the CBSI newsletter and thought I might submit an article to you on the *Act of Proscription*. It is taken from an essay I wrote for my Masters in Highlands and Islands Culture, and for which I got awarded a distinction just before Christmas.

I am afraid there is a fair bit of misunderstanding about the effects of the 'tartan ban' and I'm quite keen that this is addressed (I'm not saying that our clan isn't well informed, but hopefully folks reading this article might learn something new).

Kind regards, Jo Watson, Doune, Perthshire

How wonderful! Congratulations on your "distinction," Jo! CBSI thanks you.

April 5th and 6th, 2019, marked the First Presence for Clan Buchanan in Dunedin, Florida

at the Tartan & Pipe Band Parade and 53rd Annual Highland Games!

Erin Dow, Southwest CBSI Florida Regent

Erin Dow, Southwest Florida Regent, her husband, Thomas Pantelis and Patrick Dearman, South Georgia and North East Florida Regent, convened the event.

Great weather provided a perfect opportunity to march on Friday and Saturday. Our tent was placed in a wonderfully shaded spot under an old Spanish moss-cloaked Oak. So many people dropped in – saying they had been waiting for us to arrive! Finally – we have a real presence here in Dunedin/Dnéideann (the Scottish Gaelic name for Edinburgh).

A dozen new members signed up through the *MemberPlanet* mobile app, with a promise for many

more to follow online after the event closed. Each new member was given a full membership packet in their bag.

Samantha Haley was the winner of the donated Highland Basket, pictured below with her mom, Margaret Gibson.





The Highland Games

Anyone having attended an event will tell you it is purely a cultural experience – lined with rows of Clan tents within a small village, dancing, strong-bodied athletics, music, bagpipes and bands, animals, kilts, Scottish food, drink, merchandise and whisky tastings. It's anything but dull, or new.

The Highland Games have been taking place all over North America since the 1800's. The St. Andrews Society of Detroit brings their games to Livonia, MI for its 170th consecutive year this August. And the Antigonish Games in Nova Scotia have been running since 1863. Dunedin, Florida just hosted their 53rd year,

Page 26 The Buchanan Banner July 2019

while Loon Mountain in NH is about to host their 44th. The largest attended games were held in Pleasanton, CA, with nearly 50,000 people in attendance – more than doubling Dunoon, Scotland's record.

Abroad, the very first historical reference to 'Heavy Events' was during the reign of King Malcolm III (1057-1093) when a Royal contest was held to find the fastest and strongest clansmen to act as messengers across the lands. Beginning in 1314, under a Charter awarded by Robert the Bruce inrecognition of villager's support during the Battle of Bannockburn, the first official free games were held. There were only a few missed decades of games due to the English Act of Proscription in the 1700s. And to this day, the Ceres Games of Fife, Scotland, held during the month of June, are considered the oldest continuous Highland Games, where haggis hurling is still observed.

Throwing and lifting events are always found at the Highland Games.

The HAMMER THROW is actually a 22 lb. metal ball with chain and handle. The athlete must turn 180 degrees swinging overhead before launching.

The STONE PUT is like the shot put, only it's achieved with an 18 lb. rough river stone tossed as far as possible from behind a board/trig.

A 56 lb. square weight is used in the WEIGHT FOR HEIGHT event (pictured here) – the successful toss up and over the highest bar (backwards) wins.

CABER TOSSING is the most popular, dangerous, and exciting event, whereas athletes pick up a 150 lb., 20 foot long log – running while balancing the caber in the palms of their hands before tossing it end-over-end to land as straight as possible.

HAY/SHEAF TOSSES, DEADLIFTS, STONE LIFTS, TUG-O-WAR and HILL RACES, seen at other games, all essentially demand equal brute strength and speed for individual victory.

Interestingly, The Scottish Highland Games Association (SHGA) requires all athletes to com-



pete in kilts, man or woman.

Heavy ATHLETIC News:

Ben Buchanan (Masters 40-49 Division) represented and placed well at the Dunedin Games this year. His perfect 12:00 caber toss and impressive 16 lb, 26' sheaf toss, gave him a 3rd place finish overall. Points were also given for open stone, heavy and light Weight For Distance, Light Hammer and Weight For Height categories.

Search highlights on YOUTUBE:

<u>Take a look back at the 2019 Dunedin High-land Games!</u>

About :27 in, our banner is proudly displayed above our booth

Click here for the Scotland Games calendar: https://scotlandwelcomesyou.com/scottish-highland-games/

Click here for upcoming games within the U.S.: https://www.transceltic.com/celtic-festivals-usa

Reminder

Loon Mountain, in Lincoln NH is running their games Sept 20-22nd. Tickets are on sale now @ www.nhscot.org-Athletic Scottish Masters & World Records have been broken at these games by Dirk Bishop, Steve Schmidt, Spencer Tyler, and Hafthor Bjornsson.

However, the reason behind the ban on the 'Highland garb' only applying to males and not females is clearly down to its identification as a military uniform.

Bishop Robert Forbes compiled *Lyon In Mourning* between 1747 and 1775, which was eventually published in 1895 by the Scottish History Society. His aim was to record the 1745 Jacobite uprising from first-hand accounts and also

to document what happened afterwards. The second volume of Lvon in Mourning contains an astonishing story from Edinburgh, 20th December 1746, about a raid on tartan dresses ordered by the Justice Clerk and Lord Albemarle. who was an aide to the Duke of Cumberland and appointed as the general in charge of restoring order in Scotland (Forbes, 1895, ii: 111). Lord Albemarle was angered that the ladies of Edinburgh had gathered to have a ball in Prince Charles Edward's honour on his birthday and perhaps the 'raid on the tartan dresses' was more about suppressing celebration of the Prince rather than tartan per se. The rumours of a ball were an elaborate joke designed to mock the British government. However, an unfortunate Mrs Jean Rollo was arrested for wearing a tartan dress but was later dismissed. She is the only woman known to have been arrested for wearing tartan dur-

ing the period, however, there are cases of men being imprisoned. There is no reference to anyone ever being transported.

There are quite a few songs written about the Act (which can all reasonably be assumed to have

been written in the latter part of 1746/in 1747).

Perhaps the most cherished Gaelic song from this period was written by Alasdair MacMhaighstir Alasdair (Alexander MacDonald); *Am Breacan Uallach (The Proud Plaid)*.

MacDonald was the Gaelic tutor of Prince Charles Edward during the '45 and was also an officer in the Jacobite army.

It is therefore unsurprising that he would be a

very vocal critic of the Dress Act. His twenty-six-verse song *Am Brecan Uallach*, (full lyrics and translation in Appendix 1) starts with a romantic, nostalgic description of Highland dress.

He talks in the first three verses about how much he enjoyed wearing Highland dress before turning to how practical the clothing was for a soldier in verses 4 and 5.

Verse nine talks about how admired Highland dress was by ladies, particularly at weddings, and MacDonald continues with discussing the practicalities and the beauty of Highland dress before, at line 60, expressing his anger: "Cha Rìgh am fear a chuir as duit" (No King was he who thee forbade).

The next two verses deal with how the Gaels have only been made stronger and refer to the Prince before the incredibly beautiful 19th verse which likens the Gaels' relationship with the Prince to that of a firmly waulked cloth. Verse 22 directly discusses the Act of Proscription, stating

that the Act hasn't changed anything, and the Gaels are still loyal to their Prince, a quality that they got from their fathers (verse 23). Verse 25 directly addresses the Prince, wishing him well, before the



Figure 3: G Will (c.1750) Prince
Charles Edward Stuart, 1720 - 1788.
Eldest son of Prince James Francis
Edward Stuart, after a painting by
British artist Wassdail (1745)
(accessed from https://
www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/
53691420531480710/. Description
at https://www.nationalgalleries.org/
art-and-artists/37917/prince-charlesedward-stuart-1720-1788-eldestson-prince-james-francis-edwardstuart

final verse 26 addresses the Duke of Cumberland and states that he will end up in hell.

It is clear that in this song MacDonald has drawn together the full range of emotions that were felt by the Gaels at that period in time; nostalgia for a past that clearly was not going to return, pride in the Gaelic way of life, anger at the British (and particularly the Duke of Cumberland) and a longing for the Prince to return.

Although Gaels understood the requirement to give up their arms, they did not accept the requirement to give up a costume in which they had considerable pride (Dunbar, 1981: 51).

He further states that: "This was an imposition of personal shame and they reacted with indignation – particularly the clans which had been loyal to the Government." (Dunbar, 1981: 51).

This indignation is evident in Rob Don MacKay's Oran nan Casagan Dubha (Song of the Black Coats).

Rob Donn, who was uneducated and illiterate, was a great storyteller and songwriter from Sutherland who did not fight in the '45 although he was a supporter of the British government.

In his song, he issues a strong critique of the Act of Proscription and also of the British government/King George II.

He was summoned to appear before the authorities for sedition after the publication of the song (Campbell 1933:234).

In the second verse of the song, MacKay directly addresses King George II by asking if he wanted to mock his supporters in Scotland to 'double their bondage' (by introducing the Dress Act).

Verses 11 and 12 are particularly striking; Rob Donn is appealing directly to the Prince to return and in verse 13 he says that he is ready to fight for the Prince.

In the final few lines, MacKay appeals directly to God to make a judgment.

Although marginalised, Gaelic women did have an opinion on the Dress Act which is reflected in Margaret Campbell's poem *An t-Éideadh* Gaidhealach / The Highland Dress (attached as Appendix 3).

Campbell's poem, which must have been written sometime between April and August 1746 (line 10), and although she shares the same indignation as the male poets and songwriters, she discusses the Dress Act from a female perspective.

The Dress Act did not apply to women, so the poet is writing on behalf of her community.

The seventh verse talks about how men will no longer be able to show off their fine legs as they will be required to wear woollen stockings.

She refers to how men will no longer be attractive to women and that it will be the King who loses out in the end as he will not be able to tax dyestuffs (as opposed to discussing loyalty).

It is probable that a large number of men were arrested for wearing tartan in the few years following the enforcement of the Act of Proscription, but only a few are recorded in the literature on Highland dress, most comprehensively by Dunbar (1962 and 1981).

Dunbar states that he could not find any evidence of the Act before enforced before 1748, but an Army order of December 1748 changed the situation.

Highlanders who were under suspicion of being rebels were made to swear an oath and anyone caught wearing tartan should be taken to the nearest magistrate, in the tartan clothing, for trial.

In his *History of Highland Dress*, Dunbar discusses four different trials where men were arrested and imprisoned for wearing tartan; two Highlanders were arrested and imprisoned in Edinburgh in August and September 1749 for wearing philabegs, Oronoce – a black servant (slave?) of the Laird of Appin- was arrested and imprisoned for wearing tartan livery, and a farmer named John MacKay from Strathnaver in Sutherland who was arrested for wearing a plaid and tartan coat and in front of a magistrate within two hours of arriving in Inverness in October 1751 (Dunbar: 1962: 6-7).

In his defence MacKay stated that he had never

heard of the Act of Proscription, as he lived in a remote part of the country and was only in Inverness to attend a market.

Hugh Cheape quotes a report from a Captain Hughes of General Pulteney's Regiment dated 15th October 1749: "Duncan Campbell and his son, inhabitants of Glen Falloch, were apprehended in Highland Cloaths by the moving Parole and are confined in the Tollbooth of Killin" (Cheape 1995: 32).

Cheape adds that there were many similar arrests but that soldiers enforcing the Act sometimes struggled to know whether the law was being broken (Cheape 1995: 33).

The policing of the Act was not equally enforced across the whole of Scotland.

Grant and Cheape discuss how the districts of Rannoch, Glencoe, Lochaber, Glengarry, Knoydart, Glenmoriston and Laggan in Badenoch had been chosen by the British in 1747 for 'thorough supervision and disarmament,' but that local magistrates and justices of the peace were as lenient as possible and accepted excuses for why the men had been found in Highland dress such as they were wearing women's plaids, a plaid had been overdyed or a kilt sewn up the centre was actually a pair of trews (Grant and Cheape 1997:206)

In 1755, the Forfeited Estates Commission ordered a census to be taken on the estates it managed on behalf of the king.

Factors of the estates were asked a large number of questions to report upon, including 'Whether the laws prohibiting the Highland dress have taken full effect in that Estate'.

The reports back to the Commissioners of the Annexed Estates on the whole stated that the 'laws prohibiting the Highland dress' had taken full effect with the exception of the barony of Colgach in the parish of Lochbroom.

The Government seems to have been reassured by the responses of their factors as by 1760 there were no longer any prosecutions for wearing Highland dress due to patrols being stopped and the proscription being relaxed (Dunbar 1962: 8).

The Dress Act never applied to two groups of men: the military and the gentry.

The use of tartan by the British military is a fascinating subject which is too broad a subject to discuss here, except to mention that it was rather ingenious to allow Highland regiments that fought in the Seven Years War in North America to wear a tartan uniform when it was still banned in the Highlands. For example, the Fraser's Highlanders regiment was formed in 1757 to fight in North America and their uniform included diced tartan hose, a traditional plaid and blue woollen bonnet (which all could arguably be described as 'traditional' Highland dress) along with a short redcoat (see figure 4 below).



Figure 4: contemporary sketch of the Fraser's Highlanders uniform during the Seven Years War (accessed from https://i2.wp.com/www.militaryhistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/ WAS_Highlander_1745_web-

185x300.jpg?resize=250%2C405 on 8th December 2018)

During the period of proscription, a large number of the gentry had portraits of themselves painted wearing tartan.

John Campbell, who was the main cashier at the Royal Bank of Scotland in Edinburgh, curiously had a portrait of himself painted by William Mossman in 1749 (figure 5).

Although Campbell's political affiliation is not known, it seems likely to assume that he may have been a supporter of the Jacobites due to his aiding them to trade RBS bank notes for gold during the Jacobite occupation of Edinburgh in 1745.

In the portrait, not only is Campbell wearing Highland dress but he is also fully armed. This therefore begs the question as to whether this portrait was intended to challenge the authority of the British government, perhaps particularly in relation to fiscal policy (the RBS bank note being very visible).



Figure 5: Mossman, William (1749) John Campbell of the Bank (accessed from https://www.rbs.com/heritage/people/john-campbell.html on 5th December 2018)

With the exception of Flora MacDonald, most people painted wearing tartan during the period of proscription were wealthy men such as John Campbell.

A beautiful portrait of a young Helen Murray of Ochetyre exists, which was painted about 1750 and is the only known painting of a girl wearing tartan clothing during the period (MacDonald, 2014).

One more portrait of children wearing tartan exists. In her book *Damn Rebel Bitches*, Maggie Craig discusses Lady MacDonald of Sleat, who had her sons, Sir James (hand on rifle) and Sir Alexander (holding golf club), painted wearing Highland dress in 1750 (figure 6).

Craig states that: "the painting is unsigned because the artist was committing a criminal offence, as were the boys for wearing tartan and their mother for choosing to dress them in the Highland style." (Craig, 1997: 3266/3416).



Figure 6: Unknown (abt. 1749) Sir James
MacDonald and Sir Alexander MacDonald
(accessed from
https://www.nationalgalleries.org/art-and-artists/
3087/sir-james-macdonald-1741-1766-and-siralexander-macdonald-17441745-1795)

Jo Watson, continued from page 31

This is not entirely accurate; there was no law against painting a portrait of someone wearing tartan, nor was there a law against a mother dressing her children in tartan.

In fact, the only people officially in defiance of the Act were the boys themselves. The boys' father, Macdonald of Macdonald, did not fight in the '45 although it was known that their mother was from a Jacobite-supporting family.

The notes on the painting on the National Galleries of Scotland website states that: "The Government was apparently keen to shield the Macdonald boys from disruptive Highland influence and both were sent to be schooled in England"; could the 'disruptive Highland influence' be their mother?

From the beginning of the 1760s there clearly was a shift in thinking about whether the Highlands

still represented a threat to status quo.

As mentioned above, regular military patrols were no longer active after 1760. Tartan was clearly being marketed and sold again; advertisements from the newspapers at the time in Edinburgh providing proof such as the following from the Caledonian Mercury in 1761 (the first advertisement to be found for plaids or tartans anywhere else in Scotland is Aberdeen on 15th July 1782, two weeks before the repeal of the Act).

The Highlanders who once fought *against* the British government were now successfully fighting *for* the British in North America and they were no longer seen as a threat.

The Act of Proscription was eventually repealed on 1st August 1782, thanks to the efforts of

Continued on page 33

1761. Wercury, AMES BAILLIE Merchant in Edinn, at Dalmahov, five nburgh, at a GUINEA a burgh, has removed from the Exchange to his to the keeper, Tartan and Milliner Warehoufe, head of Kinloch's clote, first fore-stair below the Tron-Horse called church, and the door, opposite to Mr. Laurie's К. laboratory, where he fells the following goods en hands high, frong, upon the best terms, viz. vas got by the Earl of Swifs and German lawns, Tartans or plaids, was got by Grab, his Printed corrons. Scots and Irish linens. flex) was got by the Venetian poplins. Alamode, plain an l fifrom a mare called Bombazeens. gured, nineteen years old, cost Worsted shaggs, Manua filks. bundred and fifty gui-Men and womens hole, Silk Gauzes, Darcy's Arabian, who Calimancoes, Sewing filks, tire Childers, and of Lace, trollies, edgings, Silk, linen, and cotton grass for mares. handkerchiefs. Cochineal and Indigo. Ribbands, pins, and Mullins. ncedles. Gold, filver, and metal warches. on at EDINBURGH With fundry other articles. DIN, at ONE GUINEA LOWN to the fervant, COL

Figure 7: Advertisement by James Bailie, Merchant in Edinburgh, in the Caledonian Mercury (Saturday 13th June 1761). Accessed from https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0000045/17610613/009/0004 on 9th December 2018)

the Highland Society of London, (given royal assent by George III on 1st July 1782) with a printed declaration issued in both Gaelic and English afterwards.

In summary, the ten years following the defeat of the Jacobites at Culloden were incredibly difficult times for the Gaels.

Their traditional way of life was almost systematically eradicated thanks to the heavy-handed efforts of the Duke of Cumberland and the British state. Highland society was turned upside down by the removal of clan chiefs – who had traditionally been able to call men on their estates to fight- as hereditary proprietors of estates and turned them into British landlords concerned primarily with making money.

The speaking of Gaelic – frequently referred to as Erse or the Irish language- was discouraged in favour of English and it is fair to claim that the dominant British culture aimed to reduce at best, or eradicate at worst, Gaelic culture.

Although the Dress Act sought a removal of tartan as a signifier of a separate Gaelic identity, it was only temporary in its nature.

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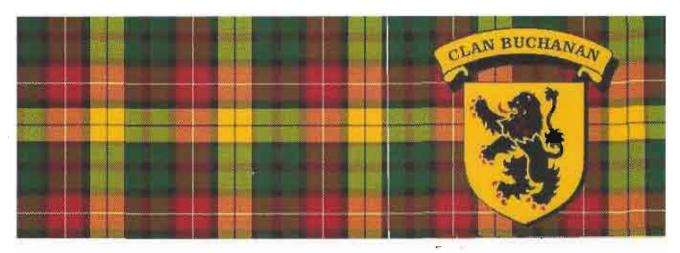
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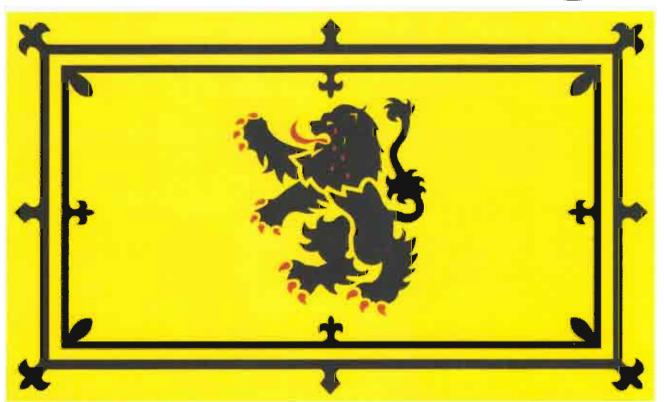
If you would like copies of the appendixes mentioned in the article, please email bethscribble@aol.com. The words to the songs are written in both Gaelic and English.



The Buchanan Banner July 2019 Page 33



Black Lion Flags



BLACK LION FLAGS are now available from the CBSI.

Our quartermaster has received a new shipment of our Black Lion Flags. The price including shipping and handling is \$85.00 in the USA.

These are custom made flags printed on 3.2 oz jet flag material - imprinting on one side with the imprint clearly visible on the reverse-size is 3 ft X 5 ft. The flag is yellow with the Black Rampant Lion and red highlights and

brass grommets.

Payment is accepted through a secure pos system. Invoices will be emailed to you and payment with a major credit/debit card is made directly by you. We do not receive your card # - all major cards are accepted. Inquire about our check acceptance policy.

To inquire or order flag, you might wish to contact Danny McMurphy <quartermaster@theclanbuchanan.com>.

GIBSON WHISKY, LTD. & TOM GIBSON

Tom Gibson, Chapter 2: After the Banquet

After the banquet (which was very successful), the meeting to sign the power station contract took place the following day, again in The Great Hall of the People in Tiananmen Square in Beijing (next to The Forbidden City).

This was just after the incident in Tiananman Square!

In fact, at that time, I didn't think I would be allowed back into China (for political reasons) to complete negotiations on the power station contract.

So the following day, the contract was signed by myself and the Trade Minister. Sighs of relief all round!!

I stayed on in Beijing for discussions with the Minister on my exporting Scotch Whisky into China.

I had assumed that he meant my exporting Scotch Whisky, which had been blended and bottled in Scotland, and I started the discussions on this basis. Don't forget that I only had one night to think about it, from a starting point of total ignorance.

The Minister listened politely, and then he spoke(through my interpreter, Yang Xu).

He then dropped a bombshell!

He said importing bottled whisky into China was subject to a very high import duty (200% plus, I think), and hence would be very expensive for the Chinese consumer, and would be unlikely to succeed in the Chinese market.

I was thinking of how to respond to this totally unexpected news,in fact, when the minister suddenly leaned forward and said, "lets go to lunch". I was now confused.

Lunch was the usual banquet, and I thought that was the end of the matter. I also thought, "Well, at least

we got a 70 million dollar power station contract. I didn't say much at the lunch.

The lunch ended abruptly (as is normal in China), and I was preparing to leave, when the Minister said "Let's go back and continue our discussions." I was now totally con-

fused. I looked at Yang Xu, but she did not seem perturbed

We went back to the meeting room and sat round the table (about 12 of us). My Commercial Director and I were the only non-Chinese people. All my staff had left to go home.

The Minister then said, "Thave a suggestion. I cannot change the import duty on bottled Scotch whisky, as it is the law. I therefore suggest

law. I therefore suggest that we import bulk whisky in casks to China. This means that I can treat it as a raw material for production. We can then bottle and distribute it in China. In this way, I can set the import duty at 0% (zero %)."

You can imagine my relief. Yang Xu just looked and smiled.

She told me later that the Minister had done it in this way deliberately. Talk about Chinese torture.

The next week was spent in meetings with various Chinese Government Departments (e.g. Trade, Food & Drink, Customs etc.).

We then signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Chinese Government, agreeing various actions over the next few months, including forming an International Joint Venture company, and visits to Scotland by various delegations to discuss detailed matters.

I then left for the airport, and when the plane took off, I breathed a huge sigh of relief and asked the stewardess for a very large whisky.



The signing of the document.

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Many people DID reply, so the pages are as accurate now as humanly possible.

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Blueberry/ Billberry and Birch are two of the three Clan Buchanan plant badges

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Oak, one of the three plant badges for Clan Buchanan

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To all Buchanans
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Planet Earth. The Milky Way
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Page 40 The Buchanan Banner July 2019