



# Scorrybreac

The Journal of Clan MacNicol of North America



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# FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am delighted to report that the North American Clan Society is celebrating this year the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its foundation in 1985.

We think that this is a remarkable achievement, especially given that our Society's success has depended exclusively on volunteer work and membership contributions.

During these three decades, our Society has benefited enormously from the leadership of four past Presidents, Murray Nicolson, the late Harry Nicholson, Bill G. Nicol, and Bill C. Nicholson.

Our founder and High Commissioner for the Americas, Murray Nicolson continues his indefatigable service as a Director and Newsletter Editor.

Two other current Directors have earned a special mention for their exemplary decades-long service: Dick Nicoll and Bill R. Nicol.

This is also a timely occasion to remember several pioneering Directors who have passed away: Merry Jayne McMichael, Chenoweth Watson, and Burke and Harman Nicholson of Balvenie.

*Jeremy with  
Baden and James  
Nickelson at  
Stone Mountain  
Games in Georgia  
(October 2012)*



## 2015 North American Gathering: Knoxville, Tennessee

Our principal 2015 North American event will take place during the last weekend of October (Oct. 30–Nov. 1 ...Halloween coincidentally falls on that Saturday...) when we will hold our annual North American Gathering and Directors' Meeting in Knoxville Tennessee.

Our local hosts will be Director and State Commissioner Brenda Nicholson Pritchard and her husband Tom who live in Knoxville.

We expect a good turnout, especially from our Tennessee members as well as those from the bordering states of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, North and South Carolina, and Virginia, and from further afield on the East Coast.

Please refer to the article in this issue for further details of the anticipated proceedings.

Interested members should complete the loose-leaf registration form in this issue, and return it to me as soon as possible.

## 2015 Games and Festivals Representation

As in years past, we are planning to staff Clan tents at several Highland games and Scottish festivals in Canada and the U.S. The provinces and states involved so far are: Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario and Québec; Arizona (one already held), California (one already held), Colorado, Florida (three already held), Georgia, Illinois, Maine, Michigan, Montana, New Hampshire, North Carolina (one already held), Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Utah.

*(Continues on page 24)*



# THE FLANNAN ISLES MYSTERY



**By Murray Nicolson**

**THE** Flannan Isles, a small group of islands also known as the Seven Hunters lie 20 miles north west of the tip of the Outer Hebrides island of Lewis. It was the site of a great sea mystery over 100 years ago and I was reminded of it when writing about the exploit of our own Donnie Nicolson, who rowed from the Isle of St Kilda all the way to the Isle of Skye in 2014. The Isles of St Kilda are similar remote uninhabited islands, about 50 miles to their south. And I have my own Nicolson connection with the Flannan Isles.

The largest island is called Eilean Mor, a somber place home to thousands of seabirds and a few sheep. It occupies only 39 acres, and rears above the sea with cliffs all around to a maximum height of 288 feet above sea level. Like many of these remote islands, it had its own hermit saint, thought to be of Irish royal blood. He had a small chapel, only 5 feet by 8 feet inside, and he must have lived indeed a lonely life subsisting on seabirds and their eggs. Being on the sea approaches to the north of Scotland it was decided to build a lighthouse to warn of the islands, and this was completed by December 1899. Like many Scottish Lighthouses, it was built by D & C Stevenson of Edinburgh, the firm of which Robert Louis Stevenson's father was the head. (Robert Louis didn't want to be a builder, he preferred to be a writer). It shone for only one year before the great mystery struck.

A ship going from Philadelphia to Leith noted that there was no light on 15<sup>th</sup> December, and the skipper reported it when he stopped at Oban. A series of strong gales prevented the relief ship from the mainland from approaching the Isles until 26<sup>th</sup> December 1900. She announced her arrival by whistles and a rocket, and was surprised not to see the expected flag signal from the lighthouse. When they reached the jetty, there were no expected provision boxes awaiting replenishment. The party climbed up the steep


concrete steps from the jetty to the lighthouse, and opened the door to an uncanny quiet. The table was laid for breakfast, but one chair had been turned over. Above in the sleeping quarters the beds were all neatly made up, but there was no sign of life. Up above in the lantern room the wicks were all neatly trimmed and the lenses polished.

The relief crew searched the tiny island. On the west side of the island there was a shambles. A crane 100 feet above the water line had been torn away and a concrete box 40 feet higher up used for storing ropes had been destroyed. Even more ominous, at the top of the cliffs 200 feet above the sea the turf had been torn away.

Eilean Mor, the largest island of the Flannans, with the lighthouse on the top. The path leading down to the left ends above the cliffs from which great damage occurred in 1900 and from where it is believed the lighthouse keepers were swept away by giant waves. The lighthouse is now supplied by helicopter—when the weather permits!

Theories abound about what happened to the men. The most likely theory is that one or two men went down to the landing stage to secure the ropes, one of whom was washed away by a giant wave. His partner ran back to the lighthouse to get help from the third man. The two men ran back hoping to lower a rope to the third, only to be swept away themselves by another huge wave.

But there have been many other theories to the disappearance of the missing keepers. People have suggested that one keeper murdered the others then committed suicide himself, or that the men were abducted by aliens. A Scottish composer Peter Maxwell Davies wrote a chamber opera based on the story, in which the three lighthouse keepers attack the relief crew, are murdered by them, and a story made up by them to cover the murders. There was even an episode of the Doctor Who series called the "Horror of Fang Rock" based on the story. Perhaps you would like to add your own theory. You can look at the various theories by searching Flannan Isles mystery on the Internet.

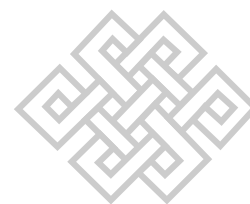
And what is my personal connection with the Flannan Isles Mystery? The Inspector of Works for the Northern Lighthouse Board in 1899–1901 was Alexander Nicolson, who married my great aunt Helen Nicolson in Edinburgh in 1891. 





# WEAVING MY NICOLSON TARTAN

By **Brenda Nicolson**  
Victoria, BC, Canada



I'VE BEEN A WEAVER for twenty years and as a member of the Victoria Handweavers' and Spinners' Guild, I take part in many opportunities to demonstrate spinning and weaving activities with the public. One of these demonstrations is the Highland Games held in Victoria. Our Guild has a tent, usually near the Clan tents, where spinners bring their spinning wheels and weavers bring their looms to demonstrate their craft and give interested persons an opportunity to spin a yarn or weave a pick or two of a tartan scarf.

I usually shy away from weaving tartans because of the challenges inherent in weaving them. There are lots of colour changes, so the rhythm of weaving is interrupted every few picks when it is necessary to end one colour and start another. The weaving needs an even beat to make the pattern square with the same number of warp and weft threads in an inch of fabric. My first choice for a weaving project is not tartan, but a cloth where there is one weft colour throughout in a pattern that weaves up quickly.

My connection with Scotland is tenuous as it was many generations ago. My father's father came from Ontario to homestead in Saskatchewan in 1905. I have visited Scotland only once but I am drawn to kilts and pipes and the Highland games in Victoria, BC. It was possibly in 2010 at the Games that Clan MacNicol tent beckoned to me. There I met a Nicolson who spells her name as I do and another who was wearing a lovely version on the Nicolson tartan fabric and who could spare a swatch of it to give me for the patterning. I compared the colours in the swatch with colours available from my yarn sources. I counted tiny threads to find the sett patterning for the tartan. I was determined that I would weave a wee shawl and wear it at the next year's Highland Games.

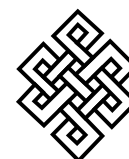
It took a couple of years.

Last year, the lovely Mary Lou Nicolson commissioned me to weave a shawl for her—same as my wee one, but wider. Could I do it? I thought I could, even though I avoid commission work, so I started to plan. It was a good thing that I decided to measure enough warp to make two because at the end of the first I discovered that one of the stripes was wrong. Instead of the pattern of "two, two, two, two, two, two" I found I had "one, two, two, two, six"! Oops. Fixed it for the second shawl.

Now I'm stuck on tartan. I have one loom ready to weave a heavier wool blanket for the family, and on another loom, a traditional lady's arisaid. My source for the arisaid idea is the magazine publication *Handwoven* September/October 1990 loaned to me by a friend. For you weavers out there, be very careful with your twill treadling. If you make a treadling error, you can fix it by weaving an extra row or two with a needle, but then your tartan colour patterning will be compromised.

I am looking forward to this year's Highland Games. I want to see if Mary Lou's shawl is acceptable to her, and I hope to show off my

other tartan projects in the Weavers' Guild tent in May, 2015. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿



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## DONNIE NICOLSON WINS A NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD



In our last issue of *Scorrybreac* we had an article about Donnie Nicolson leading a team to row from St. Kilda to the Isle of Skye. Donnie won a Leadership Award from the British National Adventure Awards committee for organizing his team, who came close to also being awarded the Team award. The team from a small community on the Isle of Skye got together to rejuvenate an old boat built in 1890, the *Aurora*, and row it for one hundred miles between the remote St Kilda and Skye. Donnie gathered the team, trained them and motivated them; it said much for Donnie's leadership skills. And it was all to raise funds for the Royal Naval Lifeboat Institution and Skye Young Carers.

And to cap it all Donnie and Rosie McDade, the Coxswain of the boat, recently became the proud parents of a daughter, Holly Rose Nicolson. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿

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## CLAN MACNICOL SCHOLARSHIPS - REMINDER



Two \$500 Clan MacNicol scholarships are available yearly for children of active clan members. These scholarships are intended to help clan members or their children offset the costs of expenses incurred in pursuit of Scottish clan and Gaelic activities and events. Application forms were included in the last issue of *Scorrybreac*, in November 2014. Additional forms can be sent readily upon request. Please contact Brenda Pritchard at [pritchardbr@gmail.com](mailto:pritchardbr@gmail.com) or Bruce McNichols at [bcmcnichols@cox.net](mailto:bcmcnichols@cox.net). You can also find their phone numbers on Page 2. We haven't had any applications from our previous announcement and we encourage clan members to take advantage of this new opportunity. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿





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# I AM A PART OF ALL THAT I HAVE MET **THE MEMOIRS OF BURKE NICHOLSON OF BALVENIE**

By *H. Burke Nicholson, Jr. with Mary Juliet Nicholson*  
Mercer University Press. Macon, Georgia, U.S.A. [www.mupress.org](http://www.mupress.org)  
ISBN 978-0-88146-471-9 205 pages

**B**URKE NICHOLSON'S NINE DECADES OF LIFE BEGAN and ended in Atlanta, Georgia. During thirty-seven of those years (twenty-seven in Europe), he had a long, varied and successful career as a senior executive with The Coca-Cola Company and a pioneer of the international side of this most iconic of American enterprises.

His autobiographical memoirs retell not only his business achievements, but also his family life, his personal interests and pursuits, his community and philanthropic endeavors after retirement, his Scottish connections which included the Castle and Barony of Balvenie acquired in the mid-1990s, and of course his long association with the Highland Clan MacNeacail.

Burke chose as the title of his Memoirs, "I am a part of all that I have met", a line from Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem *Ulysses*. This phrase suggests that Ulysses, the archetypal traveling figure of antiquity thanks to Homer's epic poem the *Odyssey*, left parts of himself everywhere he went. An unusual reversal of the more common notion that "all that I have met is part of me", this concept reflects well Burke's multi-faceted contributions throughout his life.

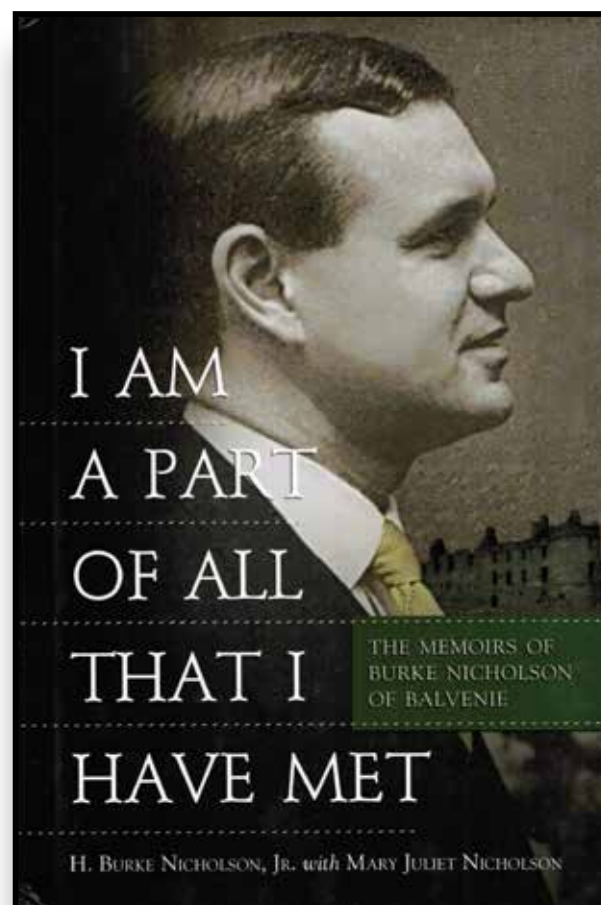
Drafted in collaboration with his granddaughter Mary Juliet Nicholson who completed the book after his death, Burke's Memoirs accurately capture his energetic personality. His individual voice, his vivid and engaging way of recounting his life story, suffuses the text and will be quickly recognized by those in the Clan who knew him.

It would take many paragraphs to summarize just the salient features of Burke's extraordinary peripatetic life. Better to read and savor the book.

Still, and in a nutshell, here's the outline. Burke's childhood and early adolescence took place in Atlanta. In 1933 when he was sixteen, his family moved to Toronto for two years. They had their first overseas residence in Wimbledon, England from 1935 to 1939. Burke however returned to the U.S. in 1937 to take up his first full-time job with Coca-Cola in Springfield, Massachusetts. In 1939 just before the start of World War II Burke married Juliet Duncan whom he had met in Toronto six years before. The couple then lived together in New York, and in Massachusetts (Springfield, then Greenfield). After the United States entered the War in 1941, Juliet returned to Toronto while Burke served with the United States Army Forces South Atlantic (USAFSA) in Brazil. Reunited in 1946, Burke and Juliet then lived in London, Amsterdam, Zürich, Paris, Brussels, London again, and finally Atlanta again.

Their sixty-one years of happy marriage produced three sons, Burke III (Nick), Graham and Jeremy, all of them now living in or near

(Continues on page 24)







# 2015 NORTH AMERICAN CLAN GATHERING

## KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE, U.S.A.

### THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29 TO NOVEMBER 1

Your Clan MacNicol Society announces with great pleasure that it will hold its 2015 North American Gathering along with the Annual Directors' Meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee, U.S.A. from Thursday evening, October 29 through Sunday, November 1 (the last weekend in October which includes Halloween).

All members, families and friends are cordially invited to join the Society's Officers and Directors for an extended weekend of leisure activities, sightseeing, socialising, entertainment, information sharing and dining.

#### ATTENDANCE IS BY ADVANCE RESERVATION ONLY.

To register your participation, please return your completed attendance form enclosed in this issue to Jeremy Nicholson as soon as possible but no later than JULY 31. Jeremy's contact details are listed at the bottom of the attendance form as well as on the page 2 masthead.

Knoxville, a bustling city with an extended metropolitan area population of 1.1 million residents, is located on the banks of the Tennessee River and halfway between the Great Smoky Mountains to the east and the Cumberland Plateau to the west. The State of Tennessee's first capital from 1796 to 1817, the city is the seat of the main campus of the University of Tennessee founded in 1794, two years before statehood was achieved. Knoxville attracted extensive international attention in 1982 when it hosted the World's Fair that year.

Brenda and Tom Pritchard who live in Knoxville will be our hosts and have kindly volunteered to set up a full program for the weekend. Projected events currently include:

Thursday evening	Informal dinner
Friday	Directors' meeting (private), group leisure activities and evening <i>Ceilidh</i>
Saturday	Group leisure activities and informal meals
Sunday	Clan information meeting, group leisure activities and informal farewell dinner

Members should check the North American Clan Website [www.clanmacnicol.org](http://www.clanmacnicol.org) during the months ahead for further details on activities.

Our most recent North American Gatherings were held in Estes

Park, Colorado (2014), Concord, California (2013), Sandestin, Florida (2012), Park City, Utah (2011), Vancouver, British Columbia (2010), and Hilton Head Island, South Carolina (2009) with great success and enthusiastic attendance.


The principal venue for the 2015 Gathering will be the **Crowne Plaza Knoxville Downtown University** at 401 West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, TN 37902 U.S.A.

Brenda has reserved a block of non-smoking rooms (either single or double) at the Crowne Plaza Knoxville at the favorable rate of US\$94 per night plus 17.25% tax. These special rates can be extended to 2 nights before the event (October 27 and 28) and 2 nights afterwards (November 1 and 2), subject to room availability. Upgrades are also available at higher rates: queen bedrooms at US\$104 + tax, and king bedrooms at US\$109 + tax.

Gathering participants must make their own hotel reservation as soon as possible, but absolutely no later than September 28, 2015. Please phone the Crowne Plaza Knoxville **In-House Reservations Department** directly at 865 522 2600 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, Eastern Time. Callers must provide our group reservation code **CMN** and mention our group name **Clan MacNicol "Nicholson"** to ensure that they receive the appropriate rate and are included in the guest room block attendance.

Knoxville is reachable by Interstate Highways I-40 and I-75, with driving times of 3:30 hours from Atlanta to the south, 2:45 hours from Nashville to the west, 4:30 hours from Cincinnati to the North, and 4 hours from Charlotte to the east.

Knoxville and the surrounding area are served by McGhee Tyson Airport (TYS), located 14 miles south of downtown Knoxville—a drive of approximately 20 minutes. McGhee Tyson Airport offers 5 major airlines (including American, Delta and United) serving 16 non-stop destinations, and averages 120 arrivals and departures per day. The airport is connected to downtown by a variety of taxi and limousine services.

For further information about the Gathering, e-mail Jeremy at [clanmacnicol@bsn1.net](mailto:clanmacnicol@bsn1.net). 





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# THE SCOTTISH DIASPORA TAPESTRY

By Mal Nicolson (Australia) and Fiona Lundy (New Zealand)

**L**ED BY A TEAM BEHIND THE MAGNIFICENT BATTLE of Prestonpans Tapestry, the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry was created by volunteers in communities across the globe. It was assembled and displayed in Scotland as part of the 2014 Homecoming celebrations.

This project saw twenty-five communities documenting their Scottish connections in a series of embroidered panels. Their combined stories pay homage to the incredible determination and courage of Scots over the centuries.

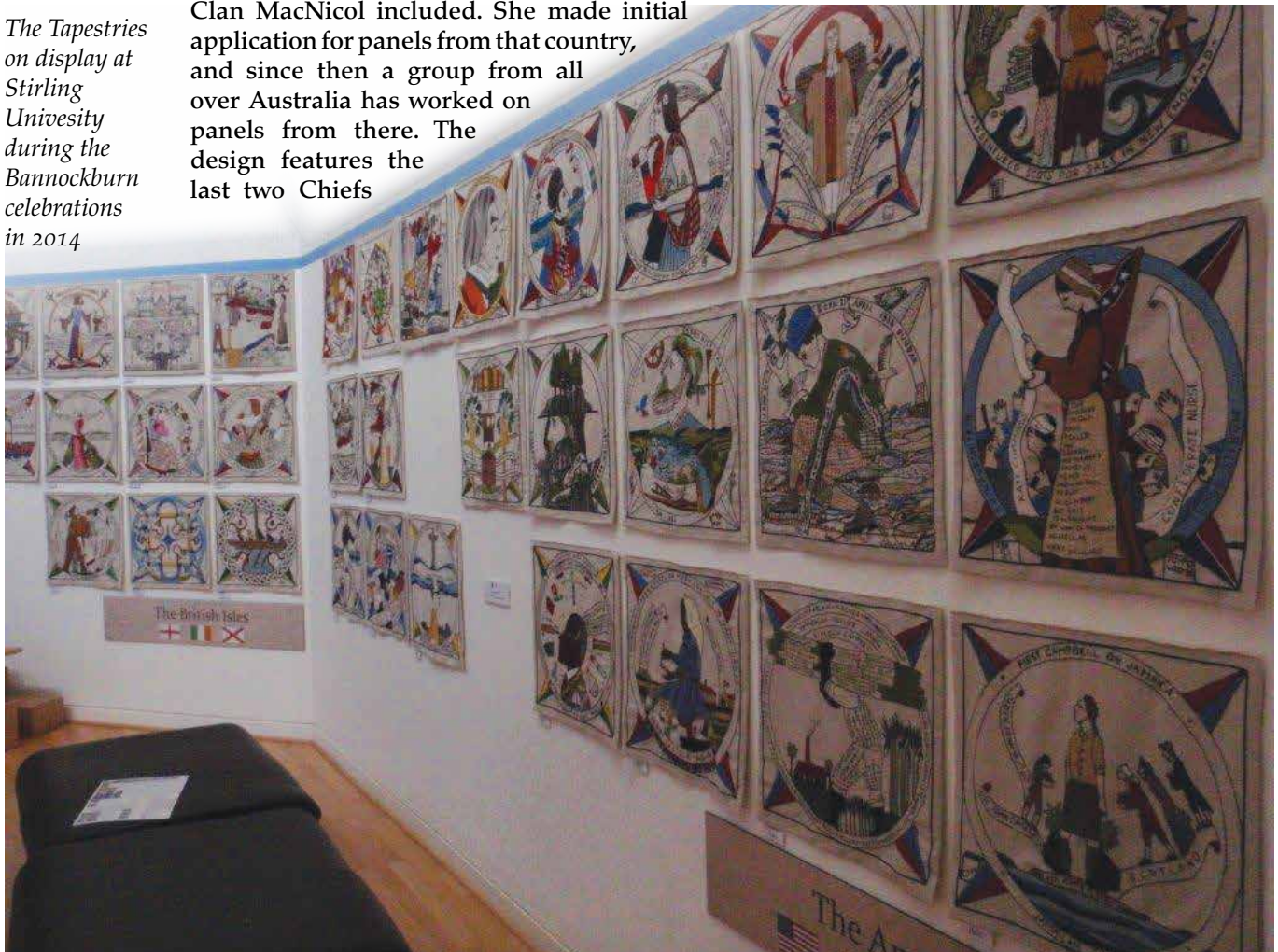
The Tapestries were on display at Stirling University during the Bannockburn celebrations. Fiona Lundy led an effort to have Clan MacNicol included. She made initial application for panels from that country, and since then a group from all over Australia has worked on panels from there. The design features the last two Chiefs

born in Skye, Norman and John Nicolson, who went to Tasmania in the 1840s. A sketch was made by the organizers in Scotland, submitted to each entrant for verification, and then they were supplied with all the materials to make their panel. There are a total of 305 panels to date, and the tapestry is scheduled to travel to Australasia and to North America in 2015/2016 before returning to Prestonpans in 2017.

Pictures of the New Zealand and Australian panels are shown below. The full story of the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry with all the countries included is available at their Website:

<http://www.scottishdiasporatapestry.org>. 

*The Tapestries on display at Stirling University during the Bannockburn celebrations in 2014*





*The MacNicol panel from Australia. Norman Nicolson with Corriedale sheep*

*Mal Nicolson working on the Australian panel—and that is a parrot on the tree outside the window!*



*The New Zealand tapestry panel from Fiona Lundy*

# BALVENIE

**by John MacNeacail, Chief of the Highland Clan MacNeacail and Scorrybreac**

In early July 2014 between the Bannockburn re-enactment celebrations at Stirling and the International Clan Gathering on Skye, a small but highly significant ceremony took place at Balvenie Castle, near Dufftown in Scotland's northeast. Some of you would be aware that the late Harman Nicholson of Balvenie, a man of immense generosity to the Clan and to many other organizations during his lifetime, left a most generous bequest to various Clan societies, to be distributed over a period of several years.

Jeremy Nicholson of Balvenie invited a small group of Clan members to a ceremony at Balvenie Castle at which the final payment from Harman's bequest were handed over to the North American Clan Society represented by Murray Nicolson, and to the Australasian Clan Society, represented by Mal Nicolson. Another sum was subsequently paid to David Nicolson as trustee of the Clan MacNicol Foundation in Scotland.

Harman's passing in 2009 brought an end to a remarkable period in our Clan history. Together with his older brother Burke, and his younger brother John, the three Nicholson brothers were incredibly generous with their energy, their knowledge and their assets to help raise our Clan profile and its membership.

They also gave generously to other Scottish causes, both Burke and Harman becoming Founders of the New Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh. They also provided a further donation to ensure that the Clan MacNeacail Federation also became a Founder of the Museum, the only Scottish clan to hold that distinction. As well as being the Clan Archivist, Harman was also the driving force and editor of the Clan history which all of you now have on your bookshelves.

The Scottish village of Dufftown has been a major beneficiary of the Nicholson generosity where first Burke, then Harman, and now Jeremy have held the title of Baron of Balvenie and been the holder of the historic Balvenie Castle. Jeremy continues the family tradition as patron of the Dufftown Highland Games. Those of us present at Balvenie in July also had the opportunity to meet many of the Dufftown residents at a reception hosted by him just across the street at the Glenfiddich Distillery. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿

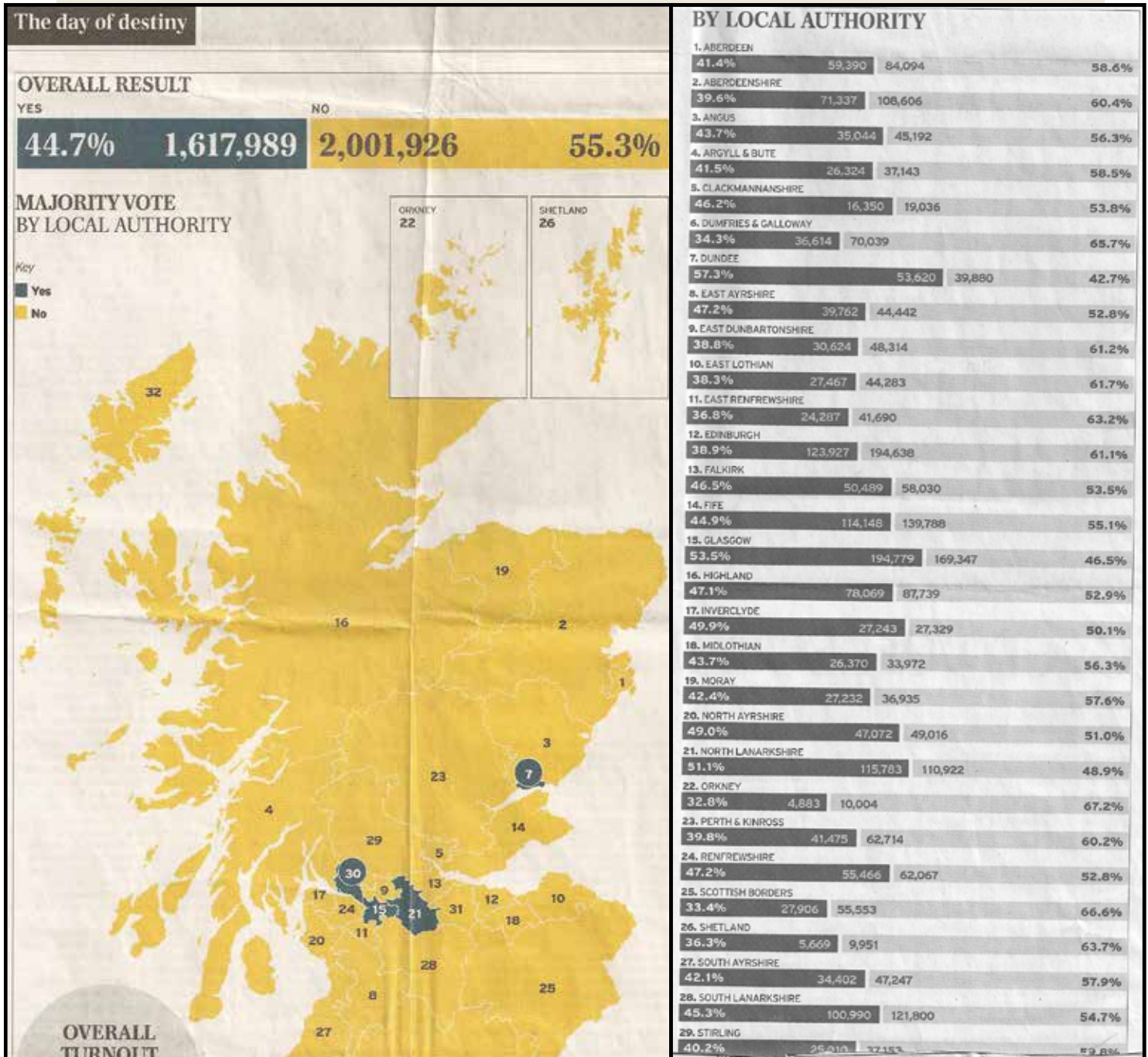






This map from a British newspaper shows how the votes totaled in each district of Scotland. Only two urban areas of Scotland voted for Independence—Glasgow and Dundee. It was a crushing defeat for Alex Salmond and the Scottish National Party.

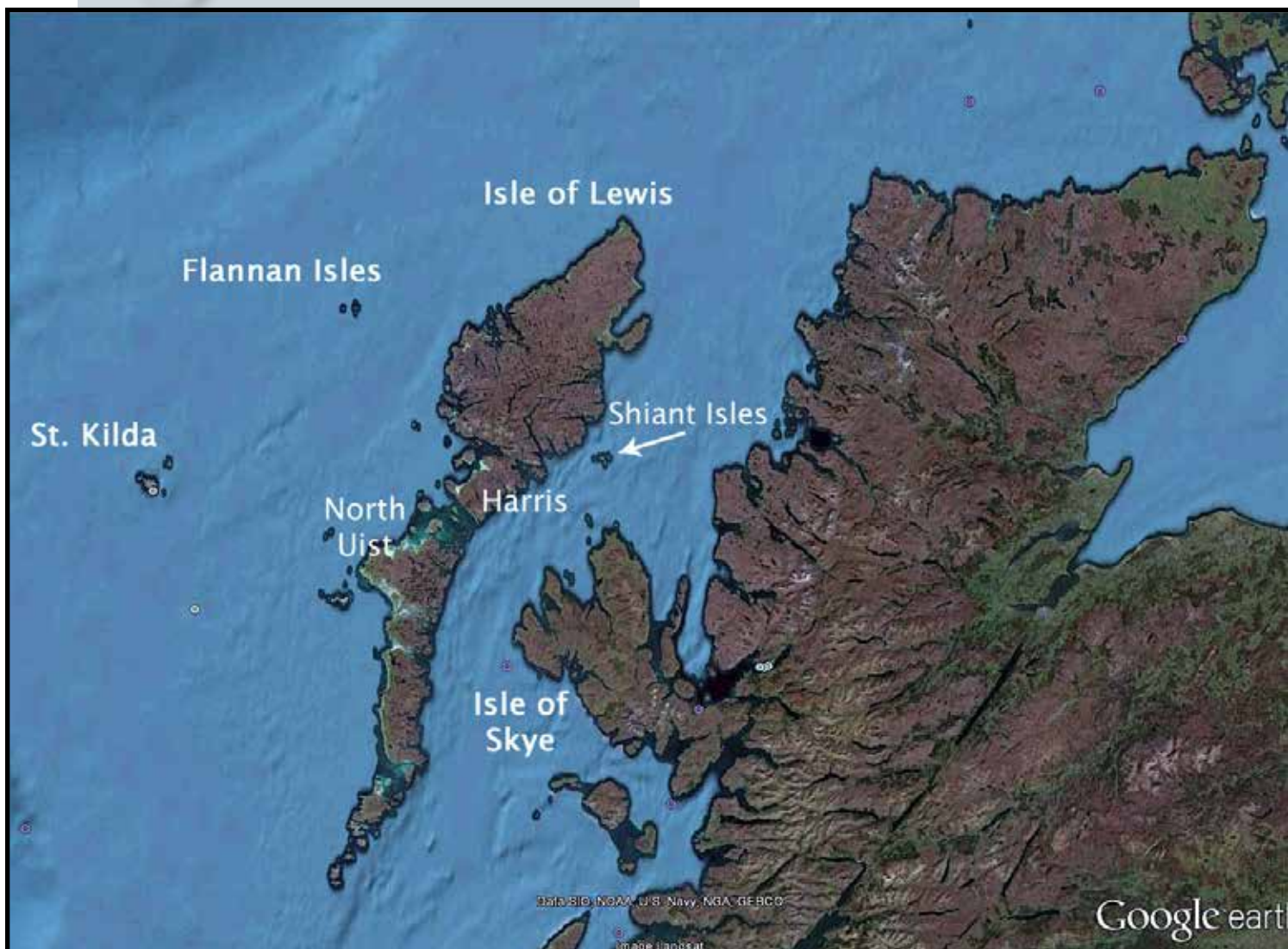
# The Scottish Referendum



# *The Islands of North West Scotland*

We have had several recent articles involving the islands of north-west Scotland and it is useful to put them all in their place in this map.

The Outer Hebrides are to the west of the Isle of Skye. They include the Isles of Harris and Lewis, North Uist, Benbecula, South Uist, Eriskay and Barra. Beyond these to the West are the Flannan Isles (article in this issue) and St. Kilda, featured in our previous issue describing how Donnie Nicolson and his crew rowed from there, threading between Lewis and North Uist back to the Isle of Skye last year. The Shiant Isles, north of Skye and close to Lewis, were the subject of a review of Adam Nicolson's book "Sea Room", describing his many weeks living alone on the islands accompanied only by hundreds of thousands of puffins. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿





# A Brief History and Archaeology of St. Columba's Isle at Skeabost

By James Nickelson

*James Nickelson is Development Director at the The Woodlands at Furman, a continuing care retirement community in Greenville, SC. James is a trained archaeologist, and gained his M. Phil. Degree at the University of Glasgow in Scotland. His fascination with the history of St. Columba's Isle near Portree on the Isle of Skye resulted in the following article, a valuable addition to what we know about this island which means so much to the history of Clan MacNicol and its Chiefs.*

**I**FIRST VISITED SCOTLAND AND THE ISLE of skye in the summer of 1993 as an undergraduate archaeology student. After finishing a month-long program at the British Museum, I decided to see the region I had read about while researching my family and clan history. My visit included a trip to St. Columba's Island at Skeabost, the site where every reference to our Clan MacNicol mentioned that 28 chiefs of the clan had been buried. Because of my experiences that summer, I decided to enroll for graduate study at the University of Glasgow. During my Master's program, I was able to return to St. Columba's Isle twice, and even conducted



a basic archaeological survey of the island, the cathedral ruins and the surrounding area.

St. Columba's Isle is located in the River Snizort just upriver from where it empties into Loch Snizort Beag and near the A850 crossing. The island is reached by means of a footbridge which crosses to its northeast shore where the visitor is greeted by a small cairn with a plaque highlighting the site's significance. It reads, "Ancient burial ground and cathedral church of the Bishops of the Isles from 1079 to 1498. Similarly ancient is the burial chapel Nicolson's Aisle, where, according to tradition, twenty eight chiefs of that clan are buried." But to the visitor surveying the site, the island's importance is not likely apparent.

The Isle of Skye is rich with Iron Age remains, and the area around St. Columba's Isle is no exception. Several Iron Age fortifications dot the hillsides surrounding Skeabost, showing a long history of occupation in this region of Skye.

*St. Columba's Isle from above. The island is the oval in the center, where the river flows around both sides of it. The chapel called Nicolson's Aisle is barely visible beside two trees on the right side.*





*Clach Ard Pictish symbol stone*

Looking north from the island there is a small ridgeline on which sits the Clach Ard Pictish symbol stone. Although no one really knows with certainty what these carved stones were meant to symbolize, the presence of the stone overlooking St. Columba's Isle implies that Skeabost was a site of religious or political significance from an early age. It is no surprise then that St. Columba is said to have preached at this site during his visit to Skye in 583.

This would also make it likely that an early Christian church on the site would be built and dedicated to St. Columba.

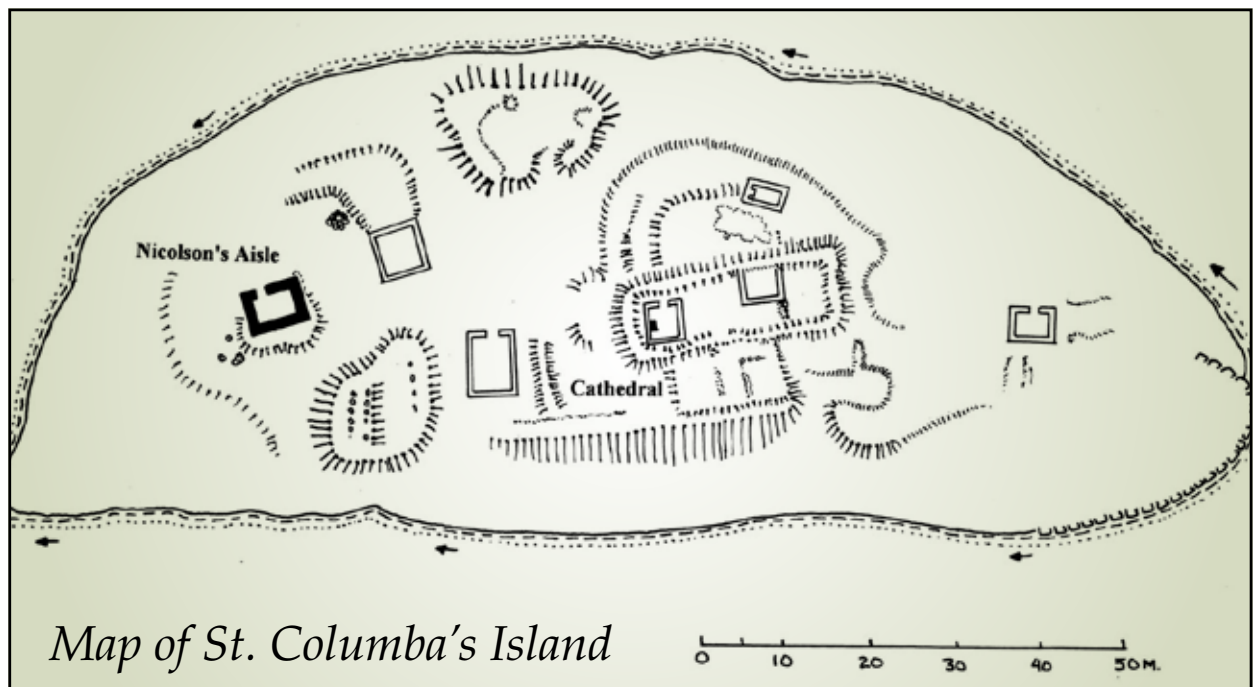
Between the ridge and the river is a fertile stretch of land with evidence of past cultivation and several turf-covered mounds appearing to be longhouses, a type of structure common in the Hebrides from the Norse to the post-Medieval periods.

The first Norse raids along the west coast of Scotland began in 795 and within a short time they had settled most of the Hebrides, displacing or assimilating the native populations. The Norse would remain in control of Skye as a part of the Kingdom of Man and the Isles for about

450 years. So deep was the Norse influence in Skye that many modern place names are of Norse origin, including Trotternish, Skeabost (-bost signifying a farm), and Snizort (formerly Snisport or Sneisport).

The church on Skye fell under the Diocese of Sodor (after the Norse Suðreyar, meaning Southern Isles, as opposed to the Northern Isles of Orkney and Shetland) which is first mentioned in 1097 as being led by the Bishop seated in Peel on the Isle of Man. But by 1109, an individual named Wimund (or Wymund) was consecrated as Bishop of the Isles with his seat on Skye rather than Peel. The Norse ceded control of the Hebrides to the Kingdom of Scotland in 1266, but the organization of the church would remain unchanged for some time to come.

It appears that in 1331, after the English gained control of Man from the Scots, both Snizort and Peel were seeking the appointment of a Bishop of the Isles. The conflict between the centers of Snizort and Peel intensified during the Great Schism (1378–1417). Scotland supported the Avignon Papacy while England supported the Roman Papacy. As each center supported a different pope, separate lines of succession developed: a Scottish Bishop of the Isles at Snizort loyal to Avignon and an English Bishop of the Isles at Peel loyal to Rome.



*The cairn with plaque. The plaque reads "St Columba's Island – Ancient burial ground and site of Cathedral Church of the Bishops of the Isles from 1079 to 1498 similarly ancient is the mortuary chapel Nicolson's Aisle where according to tradition twenty eight chiefs of that clan are buried"*





Snizort Cathedral remained the seat of the Bishop of the Isles for the rest of the 14<sup>th</sup> and most of the 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. There is evidence that the Bishop petitioned to move the cathedral to a better location in 1433, and by 1498, the Bishop of the Isles was petitioning for a move to Iona Abbey. This move was completed by 1540. Sometime after the Reformation, the cathedral is said to have been dismantled with most of the stone robbed for local construction projects, and its importance lost or obscured for several centuries.

There are a number of remains visible on the St. Columba's Isle. The most prominent structure is the turf-covered Snizort Cathedral which must have once dominated the site. As it remains now, the cathedral is a roughly cruciform shaped mound measuring 22.5 meters long, 6 meters wide and up to 2 meters in height. The transepts are more obscure than the rest of the remains, however they are still readily apparent. On closer examination, it appears that the stones used to make the transepts are significantly smaller than those used in the main structure, suggesting that the transepts may have been a later addition. A roughly semicircular mound on the west end of the cathedral suggests a tower foundation, but there is no tradition of this cathedral having a tower like other examples in Scotland.

On the western end of the island is a small mortuary chapel measuring nearly 5 meters by 3 meters known as Nicolson's Aisle. It has been partially reconstructed, and local and Clan traditions hold that 28 chiefs of the clan are buried in the chapel. Early scholarly accounts of the island refer to this chapel as the Church of St. Columba, and attribute it to the original 11<sup>th</sup> century Norse church. There are also 5 more burial enclosures scattered around the island of recent construction.

date in the first half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century which in turn dates the possible construction or remodeling of the cathedral.

In addition to the architectural stone found on St. Columba's Isle, there are four effigies of the typical West Highland style. The MacSween Effigy, so-named for three sets of initials carved into it, features a highland warrior in padded armor and helmet holding a downturned sword. It is worn, which prevents dating it any more precisely than



Column capitals



There is a collection of over 80 pieces of worked stone recovered from the island. Although several are decorative pieces, few of them appear to be significant. The most important piece recovered from the site is a fragmentary column capital with a scalloped ornamentation. This capital is significant because it resembles examples from the cloister arcade of Iona Abbey, showing a possible connection between the two sites. The sculptural style suggests a

between 1350 and 1500. The more significant sculpture is referred to as the Crusader Effigy or the Nicolson Effigy due to its location in Nicolson's Aisle, the burial chapel on the western end of the island. The figure wears plate mail indicating a higher status and the downturned sword it grips is a claymore, dating it solidly to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. This figure is similar to a better preserved example found in St. Clement's Church at Rodel on Harris.

What would Snizort Cathedral look like if it had survived to the modern era? Despite the fact that it was the seat of the Bishopric of the Isles, the size of the structure does not allow an easy comparison to the large churches found in Glasgow, St. Andrews, or Kirkwall. But there are many smaller churches throughout Scotland that allow a strong comparison to what Snizort might have been in its prime. Two in particular are worthy of comparison.



The MacSween Effigy, with drawing





The one sculpted column capital found at the site suggest that Snizort may have been built in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century, placing it towards the end of the Norse period. The best known small Norse church in Scotland is St. Magnus Kirk on Egilsay, Orkney. It measures 19.2 meters long externally and is constructed in a three-cell plan of chancel, nave and tower common in England and Ireland. The chancel appears to have held the altar and to have been separated from the nave by a screen. Furthermore, there appears to have been a second floor above the chancel, presumably functioning as a treasury or reliquary. Although similar in size to Snizort Cathedral, the lack of transepts and presence of the tower present two major differences in structure.

A second church which needs to be examined is the Medieval Scottish St. Clement's Church at Rodel on Harris. St. Clements

St Clement's Church  
at Rodel on Harris



was built upon an earlier foundation which fell into ruin during the Norse occupation. The new church is said to have been built between 1498 and 1546. It is known to have been repaired in the 1780s after falling into ruin, and again about 1860. The existing structure measures 18.6 meters by 4.6 meters with transepts approximately 3 meters by 5 meters each. It also includes a square tower on the nave end. To the east of the transept is an arch and tomb for Alexander MacLeod with elaborately carved decorations constructed in 1528 which features an effigy in plate mail similar to the Crusader Effigy on St. Columba's Island. A second uncarved arch is west of the nave with a tomb and a simpler effigy similar to the MacSween Effigy from St. Columba's Isle. An additional effigy in plate mail is found in the transept as well as four grave slabs with swords and foliage patterns set into the floor.

What would Snizort Cathedral look like if it had survived to the modern era? I would suggest that Snizort Cathedral was originally constructed during the Norse period in a manner similar to St. Magnus Kirk. This structure could have even included a tower as indicated by the semicircular mound on its west end. The transepts may have been added to achieve the cruciform shape more common of Medieval Scottish construction bringing the structure more in line with St. Clements. This comparison is reinforced by the similarity of both sites containing effigies in plate mail. I would conclude that a surviving Snizort Cathedral would look much like St. Clements at Rodel, depending on how accurate the post-Medieval reconstruction was.

There are many sites of archaeological interest throughout the Isle of Skye, and many more lie buried, hidden beneath the ground. Snizort Cathedral lies obscured beneath the surface, but yet visible. Documentary records are sparse, but when pieced together present a fascinating tale. Hopefully one day there will be further survey work to shed more light on the structure that once was the center of the Bishopric of the Isles. But for now, St. Columba's Isle, Snizort Cathedral, and Nicolson's Aisle are a must see for any MacNicol or their descendants who make the trip to Skye. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿



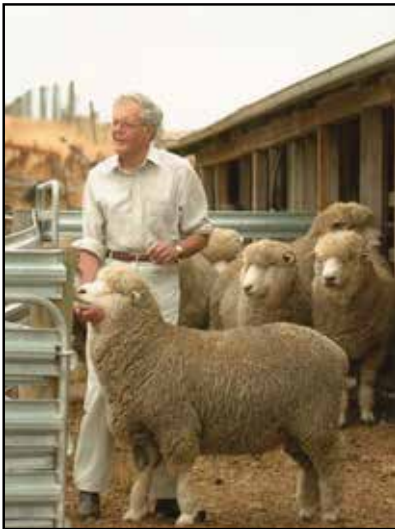




## JOHN ANDREW NICOLSON



We are sorry to report the death in Tasmania in November 2014 of John Andrew Nicolson, uncle to our present Clan Chief. He was born in January 1936, the youngest child of Athol and Nancy Nicolson, in Launceston, Tasmania where he spent all of his life. He had two older sisters, Alison and Margaret (also known as Ting). They grew up to a happy country childhood on the family property called "Streanshalh" a few miles west of Campbell Town, Tasmania. John's father Athol died when he was young, and he took over running the farm at the age of twenty-one.



*Andrew with Corriedale sheep*

He developed a passion for the Corriedale breed of sheep, particularly their own Streanshalh Corriedale stud, established by his grandfather Norman M. Nicolson (recognized as the 19<sup>th</sup> hereditary Chief of Clan MacNicol) in 1908. The Corriedale is a breed that was developed in New Zealand and Australia, and is now also found in Western USA and in Argentina. It is a large heavy sheep, valued both for its thick fleece and for its meat. Usually known in the family as "Andrew", he continued a family tradition of exhibiting teams of sheep at the renowned Campbell Town Show, and later in Melbourne and Bendigo.

In the late 1970s while on a trip to Hobart he met Judith Coy, his guide around Hobart's historic Battery Point. Although Judith moved to Perth, Australia in 1985, they maintained and strengthened their friendship until they were married in August 1996 in the tiny church at Kirklands near Campbell Town. This church was a meeting point for the Clan's international gathering in Tasmania in 2010, where Andrew gave a talk on the history of the family in Tasmania. Andrew had worshipped there for all of his life, and was a Church elder for over fifty years.

He had an amazing gift, an incredible memory, and could recall the pedigree of his own and most of his neighbors' families—together with the pedigrees is his own and his neighbors' sheep! In his later years he was in declining health, a result of being knocked over by a group of heavy rams in the paddock. Right up until Andrew's death, a respected sheep classer, Andrew Colvert would assist Andrew taking him to sheep shows. They would have lengthy discussions on the merits of rams being inspected, and Andrew with pen and paper would take copious notes for future reference. He was still purchasing rams for the betterment of his flock three weeks before his death.

Andrew was greatly respected for his knowledge and for his humility. The Streanshalh property with its magnificent homestead, purchased in 1899 by Andrew's grandfather, Norman, will continue to be run by Judith Nicolson, the estate executors and a very loyal staff. 🐾

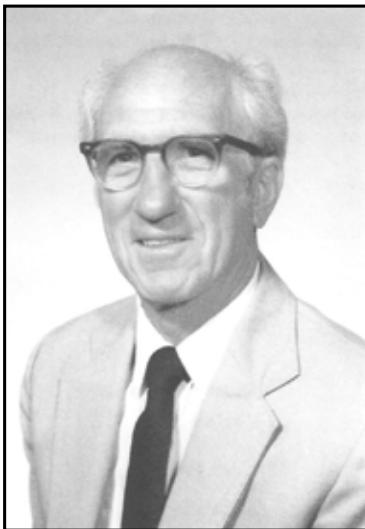




# FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

## RENÉ BLONDEAU

*René and Delane Blondeu have been members of Clan MacNicol since we began in the 1980s. They live in a tiny town called Portal, Arizona in the extreme east of the state. Barbara and I visited them a couple of times and were always amazed at René's vitality. The last time we saw him he was on top of the new fire station, helping to install the roof. Delane wrote this tribute to him for us....*



"We could do that", René and I agreed. The clan was recruiting members to establish MacNicol tents at more Scottish Games. We decided to do one for the Arizona Scottish Games where we live—beginning in 1994.

With a French name like René Blondeau? But it was legitimate. René's mother was Elizabeth Nicholson, born in Edinburgh. We had done genealogical research on her line and visited Edinburgh to see where she lived, meeting two elderly cousins who still

lived in Scotland—Isabella and Susan.

We had visited the Isle of Skye, made a small contribution to the land the clan bought there, roamed Ben Crachaig. And when Susan died and René was surprised by inheriting her small savings, he had contributed it to buy trees for the clan land in the name of Susan and David Nicholson.

To decorate the tent we had two choice items—a targe René and his daughter, Anne, had made based on the oldest targe in the Museum of Antiquities, which turned out to be from Skye. We also had an authentic copy of a Claymore custom-made for René by a man who did blacksmithing for a hobby. We had gone to the


shop where he worked and heard the ring of the hammer and watched the sparks fly from the red hot metal being flattened into the blade.

Don and Louise Nicholson came by our first tent and became partners. We ran the MacNicol tent for some years where we met Murray and Barbara Nicholson who became our "clan cousins". We later turned the tent over to an enthusiastic young couple who had a suit of armor and a coat of arms and helpful relatives.

At age 98 (those long-lived Scottish genes), René died recently. He was born on the edge of San Francisco during World War I. He watched the Golden Gate Bridge built. As an Eagle Scout, he was always interested in nature and earned a PhD in science from the University of Wisconsin. René was employed by Shell Oil's Agricultural Division his whole career, working in the U.S., Mexico, Puerto Rico and Switzerland, and on assignment from Shell to the World Health Organization in Kenya, Egypt and Sudan.

Widowed by the death of his wife, Crystal Salkeld, he later married Delane Adams and they moved to a beautiful canyon in the mountains of Arizona where René designed and built an early model solar home. He was one of the founders of the Emergency Medical System and Fire Department of the little hamlet of Portal.

He is survived by his three daughters, Susan, Anne and Vicki and their husbands, six grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

"It has been an enjoyable and full life," he wrote to his children in a life story. 





## Dale Nicoll and Jacques McNicol

During the last five and a half months, your Clan Society has received with gratitude a total of 13 new memberships: 1 from 1 Canadian province, and 12 from 10 U.S. states.

We welcome our new members and look forward to many years of a mutually satisfying and productive association.

It is our further pleasure to report that over the same period 11 membership renewals have arrived from 6 provinces in Canada, 1 from England, 1 from Italy, 6 from Scotland, and 30 from 16 states in the U.S., totaling 49.

Fifty-five new and renewing members significantly helped the Clan Society by contributing a donation in addition their annual dues, with nine exceeding the \$5 level. Thank you so much to each of you: these funds will greatly assist the Clan in its increased attendance at Scottish festivals and Highland games throughout North America!

Thirty-six new and renewing members generously contributed to the Scorrybreac Fund for maintenance of the Clan lands on Skye, including seven who exceeded the basic \$5 level. Ben Chracaig will continue to flourish thanks to your donations.

Many thanks again to all for your support: your interest and generosity keep the Clan Society going!

### 2015 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE BY JUNE 30

Members who need to renew for 2015 are invited to complete the separate renewal form which has been inserted for everybody in this issue. Please return it by **JUNE 30, 2015** to the indicated address in the U.S. or Canada—as appropriate—with your check made out to “Clan MacNicol Society, Inc.”

The fee for 2015 has been set by the Directors at \$35 equally for Canadian and U.S. members (\$30 plus an optional donation of \$5 towards maintenance of the Clan lands on the Isle of Skye in Scotland). This is unchanged from 2014.

Any members who wish to renew for multiple years, please note the appropriate line in the renewal form and complete it accordingly.

### LIFETIME CLAN MEMBERSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE

A lifetime membership program has been instituted based on a two-tier fee schedule: \$350 for members (whether new or renewing) 65 years of age and older, \$525 for those under 65 years of age.

Our Society President, Jeremy Nicholson, has purchased the Clan Society's first lifetime membership. By launching this new tier of support, he hopes to encourage others to emulate his example.

The enclosed membership renewal form has a new specific line to be completed by those who wish to opt for a lifetime membership (and never again have to worry about annual renewals).

### ON-LINE MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

As a reminder, on-line annual membership renewals using a credit card are now possible by accessing the Clan website at [www.clanmacnicol.org](http://www.clanmacnicol.org).

# MEMBERSHIP REPORT MID-APRIL 2015

## NEW MEMBERS

(November 2014 through Mid-April 2015)

### CANADA

#### □□□□□

\*#David Nicholson Stone and Liliana Simone ..... Sarnia

### U.S.A.

#### □ a□□□□□

\*#Edmund and Mai-Britt Gibson ..... Seaside

\*#Renee and Marshall Hovis ..... Visalia

#### □ □□□□

\*#Ryan and Stefanie MacNicol ..... Peyton

#### F□□□□

James and Katy McNicol ..... Ocoee

\*#Diane Nichols Srofe ..... Orlando

#### □□□□□

\*#Eileen and Thomas David Miller ..... Champaign

#### □□□□□

\*#Rick Vale ..... Anderson

#### □ a□□□

\*#Terry and Karen Nichols McAbee ..... Olathe

#### Mai□□

\*#Carl and Susan Williams Chadwick ..... Camden

#### N□□□□□□□

\*#Karen Renee Nicholson ..... Bismarck

#### □□□□□□□□

\*#Brianna and Dale Rothery Jr. .... Bunola

#### □ ashi□□□□

\*#Margaret and James Dean Nichols ..... Oak Harbor

## RENEWING MEMBERS

(November 2014 through Mid-April 2015)

An asterisk \* preceding your name means that you generously donated to the annual upkeep of the Clan Land on Skye, and a cross-hatch # in the same position denotes that you made an extra gift to the Clan Society beyond your annual dues. Furthermore, when the asterisk and/or the crosshatch is marked in red (\*#), this recognizes your donating an extra amount beyond the basic \$5, for which sincere thanks.

Those members who have gone the extra mile and joined the Friends of Scorrybreac Lands with a five-year commitment of support are gratefully identified by the designation FoSL at the end of their listing.

Members will have the year of their renewal indicated in parentheses after their names, in particular those who have renewed for two years or more, or a year (or years) in advance, e.g., (2015–16), (2017), etc.







# 2015 GAMES AND FESTIVALS WITH CLAN MACNICOL REPRESENTATION

by Jeremy Nicholson



As we move into this year's spring, summer and fall cycle of Highland games and Scottish (and Celtic) festivals, the Directors and I would like to express our deep appreciation to all state and provincial Games Commissioners, along with their families and helpers, for their valuable and effective work on behalf of the Clan Society, both in the past and for the future

It is especially gratifying to recall that the Clan was represented last year at 38 games and festivals (an impressive new record!) in provinces and 17 states.

This achievement reflects the vigor of our relatively small Clan. We might not have multiple thousands of members like our fellow Skye clans, the Donalds and the MacLeods, but collectively we put on a really good show.

## CALL FOR NEW GAMES COMMISSIONER AND VOLUNTEER HELPERS

Members in the U.S. and Canada who are interested in representing or helping our Clan MacNicol at events next year should contact me—Jeremy Nicholson—or my Deputy—Ken Lawrence—at their earliest convenience to discuss the responsibilities and benefits involved. Our contact details are listed on page two of this and every issue of the newsletter.

## REPRESENTATION AT 2015 GAMES AND FESTIVALS

Here is a chronological list of all games and festivals where the Clan was or will be represented at a tent or booth in 2015:

### JANUARY

Central Florida Scottish Highland Games, Winter Springs  
**CLIFF AND CLAUDIA WOLF**  
January 17-18

Sarasota Highland Games and Celtic Festival, Florida  
**STEWART AND MARIE NICHOLSON**  
January 31

### FEBRUARY

Northeast Florida (Jacksonville) Scottish Highland Games, Green Cove Springs  
**CLIFF AND CLAUDIA WOLF**  
February 28

### MARCH

Arizona Scottish Gathering & Highland Games, Phoenix  
**BRUCE MCNICHOLS**  
March 21-22

Dunedin Highland Games, Florida  
**STEWART AND MARIE NICHOLSON**  
March 28

### APRIL

Rural Hill Scottish Festival & Loch Norman Highland Games, Huntersville, North Carolina  
**TOM AND BRENDA NICHOLSON PRITCHARD WITH ANNE NICHOLSON CROCKER**  
April 18-19

Sacramento Valley Scottish Games & Festival, Woodland, California  
**DALE AND MARILYN NICOLL**  
April 25-26

### MAY

Smoky Mountain Scottish Festival and Games, Maryville, Tennessee  
**TOM AND BRENDA NICHOLSON PRITCHARD WITH DOUG AND ROBIN HARRILL**  
May 16-17

Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival, Vancouver Island, British Columbia  
**DEB NICOL WITH MARY LOU NICOLSON KLIMEK, AND ALAN AND CHRISTINA MADDOCK**  
May 16-17

Greater Greenville Scottish Games & Highland Festival, South Carolina  
**BILL R. AND JOAN NICOL WITH JAMES NICKELSON**  
May 23

Alma Highlands Festival & Games, Michigan (tentative)  
**BRUCE GOODBURN**  
May 23-24

### JUNE

Utah Scottish Festival & Highland Games, Lehi  
**KEN LAWRENCE**  
June 12-13

Georgetown Highland Games, Ontario  
**STEWART AND MARIE NICHOLSON WITH KIM NICOLSON SIMPSON**  
June 13

Chicago Scots Scottish Festival and Highland Games, Itasca, Illinois  
**JANE NICOLL STOVER AND CARL STOVER**  
June 18-19

### JULY

Payson Scottish Festival, Utah (tentative)  
**KEN LAWRENCE**  
July 11

Cambridge Highland Games, Ontario  
**STEWART AND MARIE NICHOLSON WITH KIM NICOLSON SIMPSON**  
July 18

Portland Highland Games, Oregon  
**KEN LAWRENCE**  
July 18

Dufftown & District Highland Games, Banffshire, Scotland  
**JEREMY NICHOLSON AS BARON OF BALVENIE**  
July 25

### AUGUST

Glengarry Highland Games, Maxville, Ontario  
**JACQUES MCNICOLL**  
August 1

Montreal Highland Games, Quebec  
**JACQUES MCNICOLL**  
August 2

Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games, Ontario  
**STEWART AND MARIE NICHOLSON WITH KIM NICOLSON SIMPSON**  
August 8-9

Colorado Scottish Festival, Highlands Ranch  
**JACY AND FLOYD MORRIS**  
August 8-9



Maine Highland Games, Topsham  
**BILL E. NICHOLSON**  
August 15

Bitterroot Scottish Irish Festival,  
Hamilton, Montana (tentative)  
**TOM AND MARY NICHOLS**  
August 15-16

Calgary Highland Games, Alberta  
**MARY LOU NICOLSON-  
KLIMEK WITH MIKE AND KIM  
COOK, AND JENN AND JEAN  
NICOLSON-CHURCH**  
August 29

Canmore Highland Games, Alberta  
**MARY LOU NICOLSON-  
KLIMEK WITH MIKE AND KIM  
COOK AND JENN AND JEAN  
NICOLSON-CHURCH**  
August 30

**SEPTEMBER**  
Sesquicentennial Scottish  
Highland Gathering & Games,  
Pleasanton, California  
**DALE AND MARILYN NICOLL**  
September 5-6

Québec City Celtic Festival,  
Québec  
**JEAN MCNICOLL**  
September - date to be determined

Longs Peak Scottish/Irish  
Highland Games  
**JACY AND FLOYD MORRIS  
WITH KAREN AND BLAKE  
NICHOLSON**  
September 12-13

New Hampshire Highland Games,  
Loon Mountain, Lincoln  
**DICK AND CAROL NICOLL**  
September 19-20

Dandridge Scots-Irish Festival,  
Tennessee  
**TOM AND BRENDA  
NICHOLSON PRITCHARD**  
September 26

**OCTOBER**  
Celtic Fest/OktoberFest,  
Carbondale, Colorado  
**JACY AND FLOYD MORRIS**  
October - date to be determined

Stone Mountain Highland Games,  
Georgia  
**R. BURKE NICHOLSON WITH  
JEREMY NICHOLSON**  
October 17-18

**NOVEMBER**  
Tucson Celtic Festival & Scottish  
Highland Games, Arizona  
**BRUCE MCNICHOLS**  
November 7-8

**Dandridge Festival:**  
*Lots of interest for Brenda and Tom Pritchard's tent at the Dandridge, TN Festival in 2014.*



**Dufftown Games:**  
*Jeremy Nicholson and Robin MacLennan at the Dufftown and District Games in Scotland.*



**Dunedin Games:**  
*From left to right the Mayor of Dunedin Julie Ward Bujalski, the Provost of Stirling Mike Robbins, Marie and Stewart Nicholson. The city of Dunedin is twinned with Stirling, and the Provost is always invited to Dunedin for the Scottish Week. This year he was honorary Chieftain of the Day.*





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(Continued from page 3)

Thanks to all our Games Commissioners whose hard work and dedication make all this possible.

I look forward to many of you joining our Games Commissioners at Clan tents this spring, summer and fall in Canada and the U.S. (see the related article in this issue). You are assured of a warm kinship welcome, and a wonderful day of Scottish entertainment, athletics and food.

## New Contributing Editor

I would like to thank James Nickelson of Greenville, South Carolina who has volunteered as a Contributing Editor to the newsletter. He has written an excellent article for this issue on the history and archeology of St. Columba's Isle at Skeabost on Skye.

I remember meeting James during a visit my father and I made to Portree in the 1990s. He and his wife Anita and son Baden have since participated in many Clan regional reunions, first in central Florida, then in Georgia and South Carolina. See Page 3.

Murray and I keenly look forward to more contributions from James as part of his new responsibilities.

## 2015 Harman Nicholson of Balvenie Scholarship Fund

As an important reminder, the Clan is offering two scholarships in the amount of \$500 each to be made available to members in good standing and their children ages 6–18 years to help offset expenses incurred in the pursuit of Scottish clan and Gaelic activities.

Interested persons are urgently invited to contact Brenda Nicholson Pritchard or Bruce McNichols at their earliest opportunity to request an application form (a copy of which was originally inserted in the November 2014 issue of *Scorrybreac*). See their contact details on Page 2.

## Availability of Lifetime Clan Memberships

To mark the Society's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Directors have instituted a lifetime membership program. A two-tier fee schedule was agreed on: \$350 for members 65 years of age and older, \$525 for those under 65 years of age.

Members who wish to take up this offer can do so by filling the relevant section of the enclosed 2015 renewal form.

Finally and as always, I invite any of you to contact me directly by phone, e-mail or letter about any Clan matter—check my masthead listing for ways to reach me.

Jeremy Nicholson

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(Continued from page 7)

Atlanta and all long-term Clan members.

In this issue of *Scorrybreac*, our Chief wrote a tribute to the three Nicholson brothers: Harman, Burke and John. They were deeply engaged in the workings of the Clan from the early years of its reemergence onwards. They also undertook a decade-long genealogical search for their family's Scottish roots (long before the availability of computerized and DNA-based sources).

Burke and Harman were in fact best friends, as well as collaborators on a wide array of philanthropic and cultural endeavors, many of which are covered in the book.

Burke had an unusually wide-ranging mind, with great intellectual curiosity and an ability and willingness to engage in subjects in many fields. This gives his Memoirs a depth beyond a chronological narrative of his life's events, as they also feature his thoughts and musings on business, history, politics, culture and the arts.

Burke's Memoirs can be purchased on line from Mercer University Press at [www.mupress.org](http://www.mupress.org). The book is listed on MUP's website under the Category of Biography and Memoir. Copies can also be found online on various book retailing websites. 