

# Dubh Ghlase

The Newsletter of the Clan Douglas Society of North America

VOL 49 ISSUE 2 **JUNE 2022** 

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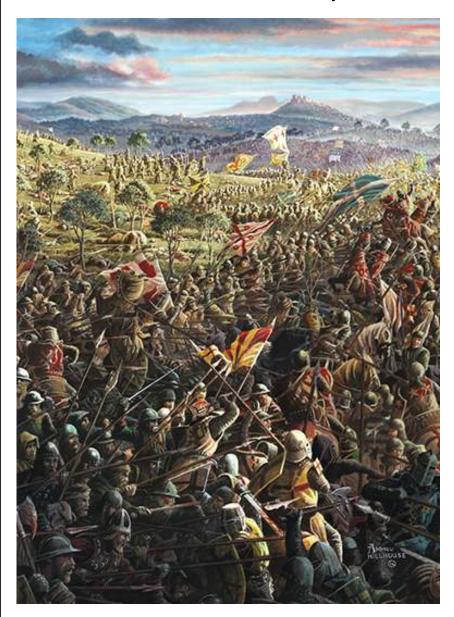
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# DAY 2 Battle of Bannockburn, detail



Artwork by Andrew Hillhouse; part of his Scottish Wars of Independence collection. https://www.andrewhillhouseprints.co.uk/photo 13837857.html#photos id=13837857

See page 25 for the full painting and description

#### NEWSLETTER FOUNDER Gilbert F. Douglas, JR. MD (deceased)

#### **OFFICERS**

#### President Tim Tyler

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## Treasurer Tom Douglas

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## **Board Member Chuck Mirabile (Past Pres)**

.....

#### Assistant Vice-President (East)

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#### Assistant Vice-President (West)

Cora Peterson 6505 N. Gentry Ave. Fresno, CA 93711 Phone: 559-709-6588 corampeterson@gmail.com

#### HELP CDSNA MOVE FORWARD! BECOME A REGENT

Or Co-REGENT

#### UNITED STATES

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#### ALASKA --- Regent wanted

#### ARIZONA

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#### CALIFORNIA (North)

Mark & Cora Peterson 559-439-2947 corampeterson@gmail.com

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Bob & Dee Douglas 209-740-7366 rdoug1@comcast.net

#### CALIFORNIA (South)

Alex Kirkland 714-718-1571 alex.m.kirkland@gmail.com

#### COLORADO

Chuck Mirabile 720-934-6901 loudbeak@yahoo.com

#### FLORIDA (North)

Jeff Sparks 407-721-3775 jtsparks1@gmail.com

#### FLORIDA (South)

Elizabeth Douglass & Russell Douglass 954-296-1834 786-853-1349 edouglass@bellsouth.net russellpipes4x4@gmail.com

## FLORIDA (Northeast) & GEORGIA (South)

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#### **GEORGIA** (North)

Doug Isbecque 770-813-0789 drci.bel@gmail.com

#### HAWAII

James Douglas Putnam 808-554-1944 jamesputnam85@gmail.com

#### IDAHO - Regent wanted

#### ILLINOIS (Central)

Timothy Kirkpatrick 253-359-7069 kirkpatrick79@yahoo.com

### ILLINOIS – Co-Regent wanted for Chicago area &/or the Quad Cities Area

#### INDIANA

Jim & Sandy Douglas 765-296-2710 sandyd77@outlook.com

#### REGENTS

#### IOWA – Regent wanted for the Ouad City area

KANSAS --- Regent wanted for Wichita

#### KENTUCKY --- Regent wanted

LOUISIANA – Regent/Co-Regent wanted for the Minden area

#### MARYLAND

James Agnew 571-278-6056 jim.agnew67@gmail.com

#### MICHIGAN

Mary Clark 734-301-8472 MICDSNA@gmail.com

#### MINNESOTA (North)

John M. Glendenning, Jr. 218-728-4998 jglen@charter.net

#### MINNESOTA (South)

Brooke Kenney 612-655-8954 brooke@brotheroke.com

#### MISSISSIPPI - Regent/Co-Regent wanted

#### MISSOURI

Harold Edington 816-529-7764 clan.douglas@yahoo.com

#### MONTANA - Regent wanted

#### NEVADA (North – Reno area)

Richard & Holly Bromley 775-530-5667 rlbrich@aol.com

#### **NEVADA (South – Las Vegas area) –** See CALIFORNIA (South) Regent info

#### **NEW ENGLAND -- Regents**

wanted for...
CONNECTICUTT, MAINE,
VERMONT, MASSACHUSETTS,
RHODE ISLAND

#### **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Lance Perry 617-396-7429 Iperry86@gmail.com

#### **NEW MEXICO**

Eric Vigil 575-749-1275 ericrvigil@yahoo.com

#### **NEW YORK**

Daneen Muehlbauer 716-283-5247 clan\_douglas.ny51@yahoo.com

#### **NORTH CAROLINA**

Samuel Machado 704-718-7775 kilt777@aol.com

#### OHIO --- See Michigan Regent Info

#### OKLAHOMA

Jody Blaylock 405-985-9704 jmblaylock@yahoo.com

#### OREGON (North)

Carol Bianchini 971-300-8593 clandouglaspnw@aol.com

#### OREGON (South)

Dakotah Blair 603-496-8028 dakotahblair@gmail.com

#### PENNSYLVANIA

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#### **SOUTH CAROLINA Co-Regent**

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#### SOUTH CAROLINA Co-Regent

Thelma Hein 843-780-8473 ladyhein@yahoo.com

#### SOUTH DAKOTA

Tom Douglass Adams 605-717-0669 tdadams@rushmore.com

#### SOUTH DAKOTA Co-Regent wanted for Aberdeen area

#### TENNESSEE

Derek & Brittany Douglas 615-691-0939 derek@douglas-clan.com

#### TEXAS (North)

Matthew Douglas 214-493-6442 matthew.douglas75@gmail.com

#### TEXAS (South) --- Regent and/or Co-Regents wanted

#### ΙΙΤΔΗ

Trenton Duke 435-459-2580 trentduke95@outlook.com

#### VIRGINIA Co-Regent

Scott Douglas 571-426-3826 arlyndoug@aol.com

#### VIRGINIA Co-Regent

Sean Morton 504-875-9540 mountainmanmorton@gmail.com

#### WASHINGTON Regent

John Blakemore 510-484-3001 2doalameda@gmail.com

#### WEST VIRGINIA - pending

#### WISCONSIN

Lori Garbett 414-256-0806 grabit1112@sbcglobal.net

#### WYOMING -- Regent wanted for Cheyenne and/or Jackson areas

#### **ADMINISTRATORS**

#### **Store Keepers**

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Mark Peterson (CDSNA Asst VP) mpeterson1019@comcast.net

Harold Edington (CDSNA Asst VP) clan.douglas@yahoo.com

#### **Historical Article Editors**

Dr. Callum Watson Battle Coordinator at the Battle of Bannockburn Visitor Centre just outside Stirling

Mr. Ian Douglas Author, Photographer Whitchurch, Hampton, UK

#### **Newsletter Editor**

Harold Edington 11907 E. Alberta St. Sugar Creek, MO 64054 Phone: 816 529 7764 clan.douglas@yahoo.com

#### **REGENTS (cont.)**

If there is a local Scottish or Celtic event in your area that invites clans but has no Clan Douglas representative, consider becoming our Douglas Regent for that event.

Regions needing a Regent are highlighted in yellow.

Even if you are available to represent CDSNA <u>at just one</u> festival a year, that is so much better than no Douglas representation at all.

#### INTERNATIONAL REGENTS

#### **CANADA** — Regents wanted

\*\*\* BRITISH COLUMBIA --- Vacant

\*\*\* ONTARIO --- Vacant

AUSTRALIA - Contact the

#### AUSTRALIA - Contact the Clan Douglas Society of Australia Andrew Douglas

04- 5816-7652 douglasab70@gmail.com

#### **BENELUX**

(Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg) Murray Frick 470-232-8060 murrayfrick@att.net

#### **SPAIN**

Leopoldo Fernández de Angulo y Gómez de las Cortinas

Phone: 34 954 277 365 Cell: 34 639 019 632 regenteclandouglas@gmail.com



# Looking for a different kind of gift for a family member?

Consider giving the gift of an annual membership (\$20) to The Clan Douglas Society.



SEE PAGE 60 for a Member Application Form

#### **MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:**

Annual Membership: \$20.00 Three-Year Membership: \$55.00

Life Membership (under 60 years of age): \$300.00 Life Membership (over 60 years of age): \$200.00



June 2022 Dabb Gblase Page 4 FRONT COVER

## President's Comments ...

### Hello Clan Douglas Society members,

Mary and I recently spent a couple of weekends attending two Texas Highland Games and visiting with our chief Texas Regent Matthew Douglas. Texas is a BIG state and there are a number of Scottish/Celtic events in the state. Currently, Matthew is our only CDSNA Regent in Texas. At these events, we talked quite a bit about how CDSNA needs more active members and more Regents in Texas to cover all the events throughout the year. Being a Clan Douglas Regent is definitely a labor of love and Texas is definitely in need of more such loving. But Texas isn't the only part of North America needing coverage. Elsewhere in this newsletter I am sure you will come across a listing compiled by Asst. VP of the East Harold Edington of Regent and Co-Regent needs in several states and provinces ... and Harold has said that list isn't a comprehensive one. Bottom line is this (and I know you have heard this from me and others every newsletter): CDSNA needs more members to assume active roles in representing Clan Douglas at those events unrepresented and under-represented. If you are willing to volunteer as a Regent at a festival or game local to you that currently has no Douglas representation, please contact anyone on the Board or either of our great CDSNA Asst. VPs. If your event already has a Douglas Regent attending, make a plan to attend that event and support your Douglas Regent. Let's build a Douglas support community at every festival we can. I believe doing so will surely attract more potential members to our Society. When you see a large group that is active and having fun, who wouldn't want to be a part of that?

Years ago as a California Regents, Mary and I were blessed with a loyal 18 member group that attended festivals and helped in and with the tent. As a group, we had the idea that four tents in a square could be decorated to look like a castle. Several members of our local group contributed to artwork to create that castle effect and help with the castle setup. It drew a lot of attention. At some festivals I have noted other clans with three or four tents. A few other clans' group even have trailers loaded with their tent things and they travel to multiple events together. Now I am not saying every Douglas event needs a four-tent setup and I am not suggesting CDSNA needs to buy trailers for Regents, but I would like to see every Regent with some sort of support community at every festival, even if that support group is just one or two families. If you



have any ideas for ways CDSNA can grow in that direction, please share with your local Regent or any of the Board members.

I am hoping also that several members will be able to attend our GMM this July in Gresham, Oregon. Our Clan Secretary and Oregon Regent Carol Morton-Bianchini has gone to great lengths to make this one to remember. If this year is not a possibility, you absolutely need to make plans for our 2024 CDSNA Golden Jubilee – that's 50 years as a Society! We already have a planning team for the 2024 GMM that will coincide with the Grandfather Mountain games. This will be THE BIG ONE! You won't want to miss that.

May your summer be all you hope for and more! Maybe we will meet at the GMM later this summer in Gresham, OR. Whatever your plans, keep safe, stay healthy and active. And when you get a chance, help CDSNA to keep moving FORWARD.

Yours aye,

Tim Tyler CDSNA President

## Vice-President's Comments ...

### **Greetings Clan Douglas!**

I hope this finds everyone doing well and you all have plans to attend the various local Scottish Games in your area throughout North America and abroad despite the increasing costs of travel we are seeing. If at all possible, the CDSNA Board would love to see a large member turnout at our quickly approaching GMM that will be held during the Portland Highland Games July 16th at the Mt Hood Community College.

Another bit of exiting news is that the Clan Douglas Society of North America has begun its planning for the Society's 50th anniversary as an organization to coincide with the Grand Father Mountain Games in North Carolina in 2024 – the place where it all began. While 2024 seems far off, our 50<sup>th</sup> year happens only once. By beginning the planning now, we have time to plan for an event worthy of such a celebration and we promise it will be a wonderful time for everyone. A committee was formed by the former Board and the following members of Clan Douglas are heading this committee up they are as follows: Jim Morton – Past President and Secretary; Shirley Douglas – Past Treasurer, Editor, Storekeeper; Bobby Groves, son of CDSNA Co-Founder Bobby Groves; and Gilbert Douglas III –Past Treasurer and son of CDSNA Co-Founder Dr. Gilbert Douglas. All of the members were selected because of their vast knowledge of the area and the Grandfather Mountain Games.

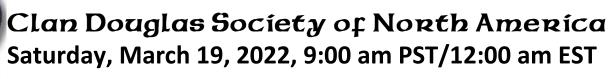
You always hear in the majority of my comments that we need Regents to represent the Clan Douglas Society in areas currently lacking in representation. If you are a member of CDSNA in good standing and you feel called to stand up and take on a greater role in supporting the Society, we would love to talk with you about becoming a Regent. To be a Regent is a labor of love, to be sure, but it is also a way to celebrate your Scottish Heritage -- especially the history of Clan Douglas as well as its many Septs and Allied Families – with others. Many of us take for granted that, without the Septs and Allied Families, Clan Douglas would not have been one of the Premier Clans (Houses) in Scotland. If your have an interest in becoming a Regent, please reach out to either myself, to Cora Peterson Asst. VP of the West, or Harold Edington Asst. VP of the East. We would love to have the opportunity to work with you and answer any questions you might have.

As a Society, we need the active participation of our many CDSNA members to ensure our Society does not stagnate but remains vital, active and growing. The Board solicits any ideas and suggestions from our members that can move us all in that positive direction. To improve the Society, we would love to hear from you -- please reach out to anyone on the Board and let us know your thoughts. After all, CDSNA is **your** Society. We all may not be able to meet face-to-face and share our collective thoughts and ideas in person but anyone wishing to participate in an open discussion of ideas can create a dialogue via emails or in our CDSNA, Ltd. Facebook group. We want to hear from as many members as possible.

I hope to have an opportunity to meet and visit with as many of you as possible at the July GMM in Gresham, Oregon – if you have never been to the Pacific Northwest, you will absolutely love it! If not at the GMM, perhaps you can attend the Pleasanton Highland Games held at the Alameda Fairgrounds in northern California the weekend of September 3-4. The Pleasanton Highland Games are one of the biggest games held in the world and Cora & I would Love to see everyone at the Clan Douglas Tent. Come along and join with other local Douglas members as we set up our tents on Friday and have our annual Clan Douglas BBQ party that evening before the games begin on Saturday. And if you can't make to Cali, I hope everyone stays safe and enjoys the games in your area of the country. Contact your local CDSNA Regent and ask how you might help him/her this year. The tent is always more fun when a large group is present.

Best Regards,
Mark A. Peterson
Vice President
Clan Douglas Society of North America

## Secretary's Report ...



#### **Second Quarter 2022 CDSNA MEETING AGENDA**

#### 1. Meeting called to order;

#### 2. Secretary calls roll.

Quorum? No. Chuck Mirabile, Past President and Mark Peterson, Vice President were Absent. Tim Tyler, President, Tom Douglas, Treasurer, Carol Morton-Bianchini, Secretary were present. Guest – Harold Edington, Editor & Asst. Vice President East attended.

#### 3. Officers Reports:

- a. President's Report None;
- b. Vice President's Report Absent;
- c. Treasurer: Checking Account \$19,144.92, Investment \$129,746.25, and holding checks/Paypal \$1,037.38. No change was made to the investment account nor was a VISA credit card signed up for as Tom had personal health challenges that took precedence. Item delayed for discussion until June 2022 meeting.
- d. Secretary Report Dues were paid from 28 members. 8 New members signed up for 1 year, 3 members for 3 years, Renewed 11 members for 1 year, 2 members for 3 years and 4 Life members (including honorary Life Member Alex Draffan).
- e. Storekeeper and Asst. Storekeeper & Asst.VP West Did not attend.
- f. Editor & Asst. Vice President East report: Jeff Sparks accepted to become one of the Regent successors for retiring Florida Regent Marc Hitchins. Dennis Conrad, our Georgia (South) Regent will also serve as a Northeast Florida Regent.

#### 4. Old Business:

- a. Tom Douglas to update on investments. (See above.)
- b. Meeting Minutes approved from January 2022.
  - a. Approved via evote by Board.
- c. Website New website and/or new vendor for website implementation; Fillable forms for Regents pending website update.
  - a. President Tyler suggested 12 sections to the website with one person in charge of each section. Secretary demonstrated a test page via Wix with Harold's newest CDSNA logo. The new logo flashes onscreen growing the big red heart to come towards you (Robert de Bruce's heart flung at his enemy by The Black Douglas) covering the screen. A brief demonstration of one of the new options available along with suggestions of videos for education and intros to our Regents and eventually eCommerce. All of these options assist the website to be more welcoming, productive, and social yet still offers important information for our Regents and members. We discussed having drone footage flying over Scotland or Douglas historical landmarks as the opening home page video. Ian Douglas, UK author, offered that he is currently doing drone photography and he recently renewed his membership with us. Harold to discuss at further length to see if lan can assist us with the website photography. Drone footage of Scotland can also be purchased online, if not. ClanDouglasSociety.org will remain in place while the new website is designed. We have updated the existing website with the Portland GMM info. No credentials were turned over to alter the template after six months of requesting them. Harold has credentials to update some of the text, but note the template. A new domain may need to be procured and is normally included in the price of webhosting and website builder

program. Wix.com is a popular website software and hosting company. Professional services can be procured, if needed.

- d. New Florida Regents information to be sent to Joe Blaylock and Cora Peterson, Storekeepers; a. Harold sent info.
- e. 2022 General Members Meeting Update.
  - a. Portland is a Go! eVote passed a motion to proceed with the event and to fund the dinner for the event along with other costs to put on the event. Fundraising will be held and it was stated a piper wasn't required, but if available via membership could play. Costs to be charged for drinks and extras per attendee to confirm the dinner count. Payment via Paypal in advance. Portland GMM Committee (Oregon Regent/Secretary and Jeff and Melissa Lynch, Members) to meet in April 2022 to discuss pricing. Est. \$20-25/person. Additional drinks could be purchase at the event. 2 minimum would be required.
- f. Douglas Archives Online Library donation.
- a. Completed by Treasurer using Paypal. William Douglas sent a Thank You to the Board. g. Social media and website. Send usernames and passwords to Secretary so we can bring everything up to date and set up a unified social media posting for current GMM and highland games, and membership.
  - a. Credentials not sent in. Facebook Group to be started, which will enable us to meet with regents and members, to discuss the Portland GMM, regent positions available, Scottish history and culture, and future events. Other social media Twitter and Instagram accounts are held by regents or do not exist.
- h. Games Kit including a new banner in development to be passed on to next regent along with a Checklist of the Top Thing a Regent does to be Successful!
  - a. eVote passed to provide a banner to Regents, if requested. Banners are required to be passed on to the next Regent as requested by CDSNA Asst. VPs. The Celtic Jackalope has Marching Banners for sale at www.celticjackalope.com.
- i. Scholarship applications accepted until May 1, 2022. Editor to place advertisement in Dubh Ghlase Newsletter and send out to email to Regents so they can offer the scholarship contest to the members in their area;
- a. Editor advertised the scholarships in the Dubh Ghlase and Regents on Facebook. j. Awards were discussed to be given out to members who had served as regents or on the board. Harold proposed we offer a medal along with the award so the members have something to wear at events. The Society of John de Graeme is again offering the Douglas Coin. We have emailed to verify pricing.
  - a. Pushed to next meeting.

#### 5. New Business:

- a. Discuss next Board vacancies for 2024-2027; Nominating committee formed by Pres. Discuss whether to revise Bylaws;
  - a. President Tyler requested a By-laws Committee be formed. Harold Edington joined. Secretary reviewed the by-laws for housekeeping. Examples were sent suggesting changes to the Board via email so they could see examples of what needed updating. This was done as Mark Peterson sent an email after the meeting wanting to know why we needed to revise the CDSNA By-Laws. President Tyler wanted "Septs" changed to "Allied Families" as it seemed a clearer explanation of what the "other families/surnames" represented. Phillip Smith author of "Tartan for Me" and a tartan expert with the Tartan Authority stated he though "Sept" should be retired. The By-Laws are required to be reviewed every three years and was last performed in 2018. If you'd like to participate, please contact President Tim Tyler. Motion: Revise the By-Laws to add Assistant Vice Presidents to the Board. Must be announced to membership first and voted on at 2024 Portland GMM. Motion to be added to the 2022 revised By-Laws, if passed by CDSNA Membership.
  - b. Regent compensation for two-day events and mileage. How to measure the net result of paying for two-day events in store goods sales and memberships.

c. Harold's suggestion was to first define exactly what a two-day event consisted of (i.e. Friday Night and Saturday all day?). Delayed for more discussion at next meeting.

- b. Next Meeting date set for Saturday, June 18, 2022 at 9 am PST / 12 pm EST.
  - a. Approved.

Please note: Remember that items and volunteerism donated to CDSNA become the property of CDSNA. They are not your personal property and should be turned over to current Board Officers trying to update or further them for the CDSNA community. We have all spent hours and thousands of dollars to support CDSNA. We are all here to benefit the CDSNA and its membership. Contribute by offering support and assistance to help make CDSNA the Clan that leads with their

Thank you for your volunteerism and support!
We appreciate YOU!

#### A Douglas! A Douglas! A Douglas!

## **Cead mile failte** to our new members this quarter. Welcome to the Clan Douglas Society.

4298 McKnight, Kelly; Akron, OH

4307 Mucklow, Debra Douglas; Port St. Lucie, FL

4308 Douglas, Ian; Whitchurch, UK

4309 Nelson, Ozzie E.; Saint Augustine, FL

4310 Oglesby, Joe M.; Lynn Haven, FL

4311 Bailey, Cynthia L.; Jacksonville, FL

4312 Bossard, Jeff; Keystone Heights, FL

4313 O'Dell, Christopher; Woodbury, TN

4314 Douglas, Karen; Oak Grove, MO

4315 Douglas, Kelly; Oak Grove, MO

4316 Hughes, Jameson; Forest Hill, MD

4317 McGuffee, Michael; Terry, MS

4318 Chastain, Betsy; Seymour, TN



#### **ADDRESS CHANGES:**

A reminder that all phone, email or address changes for members or others receiving Dubh Ghlase should be made to the clan secretary:

### DouglasSecretary@comcast.net

Also, the Membership Application Form included with this issue has been modified to use for contact info changes. Forms can be scanned/emailed to the Secretary or snail mailed to the address on page 2.

Membership applications and dues payments should also be sent to the Secretary.

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## The Editor's Ramblings ...

This being my Memorial Day weekend, I have selected to share with you all a memory of my grandfather who passed away this month in 1969. As a storyteller, I believe it is very important to retell your family stories to keep the memory of your loved ones alive. As an older gentleman told me after my grandfather died, "Every person dies twice -- the first time is when you say goodbye to their body and the second time is when the last person who remembers them goes to meet them again. That's why it is important to tell and retell the stories of your people to your children and to their children so they will never forget to tell them to future generations and in those stories, your old people will live almost forever."

#### The Wisdom of a Man who dropped out of school at the age of 10 years old ... and how it applies to Today

My paternal grandfather is the only person in my life of whom I was afraid. In March of 1898, a little more than six months before the birth of my grandfather, my great-grandfather died. In 1908, at the age of 10, my grandfather dropped out of school to help his mother work the family farm and he also began working "in the timber" cutting railroad ties in southeast Missouri. By age 12, my grandfather was the foreman of an 8-man team of tie-cutters. He was a rugged fellow who worked very hard to earn his own way. He was quick to recognize talent, integrity, and commitment in others and, with his leadership skills, he created a good life for himself, his family and for dozens of employees. Despite the hardships of his life, Popo wasn't a cruel or harsh man; he was a hard and driven man. And he expected the Best from those working for him just as he gave his Best to those in his employ. Popo never hurt any of us grandkids (unless you count those apple tree switches we grandsons had to select that Popo used to provide "judgement corrections" when we selected our own wisdom over his.) No, he was not cruel — he was a self-made, self-reliant, and an amazingly wise fellow who had great expectations for his descendants. My fear was that of disappointing him.

Of the many things my grandfather taught me in the short time he shared Life with me, two things have directed my life more than others. The first that stands out and has been almost a mantra in my own life was this... When I was 5 or 6, I was upset that my older cousins would not include me in their activities or, when I was included, they would never want to do anything I suggested we do – such is Real Life with older cousins! After one such whiny session, Popo put his hand on my head and said (probably for the 100<sup>th</sup> time), "Son, *if you don't like where you are being led, just take the lead.*" I have since interpreted that as "Be bold enough to make your own way" and, I have to admit, doing that "take the lead" thing doesn't always buy the respect of others, or their praise, or their kindness but it does remove you from a position of victimhood. The second thing I remember being told was "*Responsibility is a Privilege and Privilege is a Responsibility.*" Popo said those two concepts go hand in hand and you will not experience one without the other. You want more privilege? Be more responsible! And now that you have demonstrated you can be more responsible, you now have this new privilege. Talk about an uphill battle! But his words have been proven over and over in my life.

As an Asst. VP for CDSNA who is holding double duty as the newsletter editor, I frequently field emails or Facebook comments from people (CDSNA members and others who are not yet members) asking why there was no Douglas tent at Festival XYZ. My stock response is, "Have you ever considered becoming a Regent and hosting a Douglas tent at that event?" – in essence, *if you don't like where you are being led, just take the lead.* Is it a Responsibility being a Clan Douglas Society Regent? ABSOLUTELY! Are there any Privileges that accompany being a Clan Douglas Society Regent? Again, ABSOLUTELY! As a Regent, I have had the absolute privilege of meeting hundreds of visitors in my Douglas tent and sharing the History of our Douglas heroes and the histories (as best as I can and know) of our many Douglas septs and allied families. Maybe ... YOU are someone ready to take the lead; YOU are someone willing to assume a role in the never-ending balance act between Responsibility and Privilege. If you are that kind of person, I am sure Popo would be pleased to shake your hand and give you that smile that makes you know and feel you are so approved. Since he isn't here to do that, maybe ... I will one day be able to do that for him.

#### "However big, however small, Let me be part of it all; Share your dreams with me..."

I may not have "A Million Dreams", and I am not "The Greatest Showman", but I am pleased to invite you all to a new CDSNA Facebook group. If you are on Facebook and not yet a part of the *Clan Douglas Society of North America, Ltd* group, please come join us. https://www.facebook.com/groups/clandouglassociety

This is your group for sharing Douglas- and Scottish-themed items, for announcing Scottish/Celtic events, for asking questions that someone can (hopefully) answer, and for making suggestions about how CDSNA can be a better organization. This is also a fabulous way to create a more interactive Clan Douglas online community across North America and the World. As with any group, this one is only as wonderful as its participants. Join (if you haven't already), and, together, we can all keep CDSNA moving Forward.

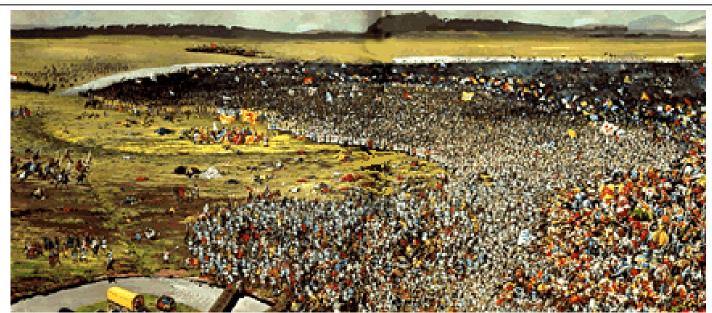
And while we are on the subject of sharing dreams... the newsletter editor has asked me to ask you for your thoughts on improving the quality of this publication. What topics would be of interest to you? What information would be helpful for members to know? What things have you seen online, in a book, or in person that you believe would be of interest to other members? Share your ideas. It is another way we can collaborate to improve our Society.

Regards to all... and enjoy this issue,

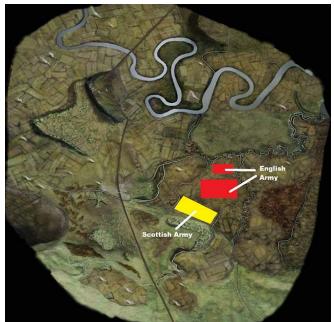
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## 'Let the retaliation of Scotland depend on her foot-soldiers': The Battle of Bannockburn from an English perspective, Part 2



A depiction of the fighting at the Battle of Bannockburn on 24th June by Philip Proudfoot, c. 1972. Though there are a number of anachronisms, particularly in the use of heraldry as a kind of uniform for all of the troops in an individual's following, this painting nonetheless gives a useful impression of what the two armies likely looked like down on the Carse on the second day of battle, with the Scots pressing the English army into the narrow space between the Bannock Burn in the south and the Pelstream in the north. Image source: http://www.magicdragon.com/Wallace/bannockburn2.html



A map of the area around Stirling as it may have appeared in 1314, with additions showing (rather crudely) the approximate disposition of the two armies on 24th June. Hemmed in by streams on three sides and the Scots on the other, the English army were faced with a stark choice - fight their way out through the Scots or flee across the streams. Being unable to accomplish the former, they were ultimately forced to attempt the latter, with deadly consequences for many of them.

Image source:

https://twitter.com/BannockburnNTS/status/1402964028641665025?s=20

On June 24, 1314, the Battle of Bannockburn ended with the English army scattering and the English king Edward II fleeing desperately towards Dunbar pursued by a small force of Scots led by the recently-knighted Sir James Douglas. Though hardly decisive (the English troops that escaped Bannockburn probably still outnumbered the Scottish army as it had been before the fighting began and the war would drag on for another fourteen years), the battle cemented King Robert I's status as one of Scotland's most fearsome war leaders even as it shattered his counterpart's military reputation for generations of scholars and popular historians alike. Today's blog post will consider the events of the second day of the battle from an English perspective, and will also examine how the events were remembered - and indeed explained and excused - by contemporary and near-contemporary English chroniclers.

#### Caught in a Trap: The Second Day

When we left the English yesterday, they were camped down in a wide, flat area known as the Carse of Stirling, east of the Scots who remained ensconced in a stronger defensive position in an enclosed hunting reserve known as the New Park. The English camp was bounded to the south by the Bannock Burn (the muddy banks of which they had churned into a quagmire to get there) and to the north by the Pelstream, which flowed together east of the English position before flowing into the River Forth some distance behind them. Having seen the Scots act entirely defensively on the first day of fighting, and fearful that the Scots would now seek to stage a managed withdrawal north-west, the English most likely hoped to press on across the Pelstream in the morning, in an effort to block Bruce's easiest line of retreat. However, they had unwittingly manoeuvred themselves into precisely the position the Scots wanted them in all along. Unbeknownst to them, the Scots were no doubt making their preparations for a counterattack even as the sun set on 23rd June, and as it rose again

on Monday 24th June - St John the Baptist's Day - they struck. Advancing eastwards out of the New Park, the Scottish army formed up overlooking the Carse on Balquidderick Ridge in three divisions - one led by King Robert's brother Edward Bruce, earl of Carrick; one led by Bruce's nephew Thomas Randolph, earl of Moray; and a third, smaller division led by the king himself. The Scots were - apparently - all dismounted, and the divisions led by Carrick and Moray were formed up in tightly-packed spear formations known as schiltrons, probably crescent-shaped bodies of men with their long spears pointed outwards in the direction of the English. As soon as they were ready, the first two divisions advanced down into the Carse, filling up the area between the Bannock Burn and the Pelstream and effectively trapping the English in the cramped space where the two streams flowed together.

It is unclear precisely when the English became aware of this sudden Scottish offensive. One English account the Lanercost Chronicle - mentions some skirmishing between English and Scottish archers before the main fighting began, and it may be that this was used by both sides to give the main bodies of their armies time to get into position. Certainly, while the Scots seem to have caught the English off-guard before they could attempt to cross the Pelstream, the English were apparently able to get their mounted vanguard ready to fight before the Scots had advanced far onto the Carse. As on 23rd June, the vanguard was led jointly by the earls of Gloucester and Hereford, with the former still nursing his frustrations about being unhorsed at the New Park the previous afternoon. The English cavalry charged directly into the division led by Carrick, their aim apparently to create a gap in the formation through which the rest of the army could muscle their way out of the trap in which they found themselves, but instead they smashed ineffectively against the disciplined Scottish infantry. This is a somewhat predictable outcome given that schiltrons had been developed precisely to counter heavy cavalry charges. A number of the English lords at Bannockburn had received first-hand experience of this at the Battle of Falkirk some sixteen years earlier. Yet the tactical lessons of Falkirk were probably not as obvious to those who had fought in it as they are to us with hindsight. After all, while the Scottish schiltrons at Falkirk had been picked apart by archery and missile troops after an initial cavalry charge had foundered against their spears, it was a second cavalry charge that finally swept the Scots from the field. To veterans of Falkirk like Sir Robert Clifford - who may have been one of those English lords killed in the opening charge at Bannockburn - it may well have seemed as though

## Tio Seconde Botoille Lia Balavle le Evestie de Durenje Le Corte de Hoogs Johan de Wale Heres de Modey Lie Conte Patrilie Exectio de Deceme Peres de Cortet Siries le fits Hiera de Busterceite. Edyard de Bustinge Extrile de Danebarre 1Dare Soul k in Widow Robert de Sidone Total Point Willer (Planin Hodres de Estleye - Elisadre de Lyadoseye

A modern reproduction of a portion of the Falkirk Roll, showing the second division of the English army. The events of the Battle of Falkirk had shown both that disciplined infantry could be capable of repulsing heavy cavalry and also that such infantry formations were seriously vulnerable to archery. Many of those lords present in the English army at Falkirk - Humphrey de Bohun, earl of Hereford, Sir John Seagrave, Sir Marmaduke Tweng, and Sir Robert Clifford - had fought at Falkirk in 1298 but had apparently failed to learn these lessons. Image source:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The\_Falkirk\_Roll\_of\_Arms\_-\_Panel\_2\_ \_La\_Batayle\_le\_Eveske\_de\_Dureme.jpg

their contribution (rather than that of the archers) that had brought victory in 1298, and thus they expected to do so again in 1314. They were to be grievously - and in many cases fatally - disappointed however.

Unable to break through the Scottish formation, and having no doubt spent some time riding back and forth along the line looking in vain for a weak point to exploit, the English cavalry was ultimately left with no choice but to pull back. One of their leaders - Gloucester - may well have been killed during or shortly after the initial charge, which would no doubt have undermined their morale (though it may also have simplified the English chain of command somewhat). By withdrawing, the English cavalry might have hoped to regroup for a renewed assault on the Scottish spearmen or perhaps more likely to allow the infantry (by far the largest portion of the army) to advance and engage with the Scots on a more equal footing).

The English may have expected to be able to conduct such manoeuvring at their leisure, since Wallace's schiltrons at Falkirk had been entirely stationary formations. Even Randolph's schiltron, which had turned Clifford's cavalry back on itself at St Ninians on the first day of Bannockburn had not moved once it had taken up position to defend the nearby ford. However, on 24th June the Scottish schiltrons in the Carse revealed yet another unexpected benefit of the weeks of training they had enjoyed in Torwood ahead of the battle - they began to advance inexorably towards the retreating English. This was an unmitigated disaster for the English and the most devastating aspect of the trap Bruce had prepared for them.



Apocalyptic battle scenes from f.40r of the Holkham Bible, an early fourteenthcentury English picture book (c. 1327-35). Given the dating of the work, the equipment used by the combatants in these images offers some insight into the equipment available to the two armies at the Battle of Bannockburn. Image source:

https://www.bl.uk/catalogues/illuminated manuscripts/ILLUMIN.ASP? Size=mid&IIIID=56919

With the cavalry still ahead of them, the infantry could not reach the Scots to have an impact on the fighting. Sandwiched between the advancing Scots and their own infantry, the cavalry found themselves with less and less space in which to attack the spearmen, against whom they had already proven useless even when at full strength and with a long run-up. Every effort by the cavalry and the infantry to let one another past diluted their strength further and moreover led to the breakdown of the cohesion of in the English army as a whole. Soon the English were ceasing to be a functional army at all and had degenerated into a confused and disorientated men and horses struggling to have any impact on events as they unfolded around them.

Someone at least in the English army may have still been making reasonable tactical decisions as the situation began to worsen. Whether or not this was King Edward or not is unclear. But according to the later Scottish poet John Barbour at a certain point in the fighting some archers seem to have formed up, perhaps on the flank of the English army, and began to shoot into the tightly-packed Scottish spear formations. Given time - and assuming the archers could form up in sufficient numbers - this might disrupt the Scottish schiltron enough for the English to break through them, created more space in which the English might be able to bring their superior numbers to bear against the Scots at last. However, before they could achieve this the archers were scattered by Sir Robert Keith, the Scottish marischal, and about 500 men on 'lycht hors' (Bk. 13, Il. 56). It may be that Keith and his 'light' (possibly here simply meaning 'fast') cavalry had been assigned to screen one flank of the Scottish army specifically to counter this eventuality. However, Barbour states that Bruce 'Ordanyt forouth the assemble/Hys marschell with a gret menye.../For to pryk amang the archeris' (Bk. 13, II. 53-4, 57), which may suggest that Keith had remained with the king among the reserve on Balquidderick Ridge with the intention of fighting on foot, until he was ordered to mount up and disperse the archers. Either way, the removal of the archers from the field seems to have ended any hope for the English to extricate themselves from Bruce's trap by force. All that was left to them then was to flee.

Eventually, King Robert judged that the English were close to breaking point and decided to commit his reserve to the fighting. Barbour is the only writer to offer a detailed description of the make-up of Bruce's division (and actually only provides this for the first day, although we would not particularly expect this to change between 23rd and 24th). He describes the king's division as 'The men of Carrik.../And off Arghile and of Kentyr/And off the Ilis' (Bk. 11, 340-2). These were regions from which Bruce had drawn support from the very beginning of his reign, and thus we would expect these troops to be among the most battle-hardened and effective in the whole Scottish army. Committing the reserve at this crucial moment was designed to do more than simply shatter what remained of English morale. Bruce must now surely also have hoped to capture King Edward. Doing so would almost certainly end the war altogether, since the Scots could deny Edward his freedom until he agreed to recognise Bruce's rights as king. That the Scots ultimately hoped to capture Edward is suggested by the amount of physical danger he appears to have been in during the second day of fighting. In spite of his subsequent reputation for lacking military skills, Edward II probably did more fighting than his Scottish counterpart at Bannockburn. He had a horse killed under him, and many members of the royal household were either killed or captured defending the king. The circumstances of Edward's escape will be examined in more detail below, but for now it will sufficient to say that it was the apparently imminent threat to Edward's safety that finally convinced the king - or those around him - that he should quit the field. Once the king himself was on the run, the entire English army - seeing the royal banner vanishing northwards - quickly began to fall apart as well.

Those on the northern side of the battlefield fled north in the same direction as their king. Barbour describes some the retreating Englishmen even scaling the steep sides of Castle Hill in their desperation to reach the safety of the castle. Most of the army however seems to have taken the route south, retracing the steps they had taken to arrive on the battlefield on the evening of 23rd June. For many of the English troops, this may have seemed like the most obvious route home - given that it was the way they had taken the previous day - but it would prove to be a fatal error for a

quagmire. Anyone who slipped and fell trying to traverse this treacherous area in a panic on the second day would struggle to regain their footing while twenty thousand of their fellows pressed on behind and around them in their eagerness to escape. By the end of the day, so many had been trampled and drowned in the mud and the water - so Barbour claims [J. Barbour, *The Bruce*, Bk. 13, II. 337-40] - that:

And Bannokburne betwix the brays Off men and hors sua stekyt wais That apon drownyt hors and men Men mycht pas dry out-our it then.

Among those who did escape - possibly over the backs of their hapless fellows - were the Gloucestershire knight Sir Maurice Berkeley and his Welsh infantry, who Barbour describes as being 'wele ner all nakyt' (Bk. 13, II. 421) as they fled south, shedding any clothing that might identify them as soldiers from the defeated English army. While this detail may simply be a cruel joke on Barbour's part, the Vita Edwardi Secundi ('Life of Edward II') confirms the English fear of recrimination from the Scottish commons as they made their way to the border. Berkeley himself seems to have joined the earl of Hereford and others in making for Bothwell Castle in Lanarkshire, which was still held for the English by a Scot named Sir Walter Fitz Gilbert. However, on learning of the English defeat at Bannockburn, Fitz Gilbert took Hereford, Berkeley and co. prisoner, handing them and



A detail from William Brassey Hole's mural depicting the Battle of Bannockburn in the Scottish National Portrait Gallery on Queen's Street in Edinburgh. The depiction of an English knight defending himself from capture by use of a mace may have been influenced by the account of the battle in Sir Thomas Gray's Scalacronica, discussed in more detail below. Image source: https://www.nationalgalleries.org/art-and-artists/93429/bannockburn-ad-1314

the castle over to King Robert's brother Edward Bruce, earl of Carrick, a few days later. Among the group delivered into Carrick's hands was Robert Umfraville, earl of Angus, and his kinsman Ingram, both Scots with Balliol connections that had made them hitherto unwilling to recognise Bruce as King of Scots. Earl Gilbert continued in this refusal and was soon ransomed, but Ingram apparently chose - like Fitz Gilbert - to take this opportunity to submit to Bruce and was rewarded with part of the formerly Balliol-held barony of Redcastle, which he claimed through his mother or grandmother. Sir Philip Mowbray, the commander of the garrison at Stirling who had originally negotiated the deal with Carrick that brought Edward's army to Bannockburn, also made his peace with King Robert in the wake of Bannockburn, and as with Fitz Gilbert he may have used the



The tomb of Sir Maurice Berkeley 'the Magnanimous' at Bristol Cathedral. According to the Scottish poet John Barbour, Berkeley escaped the battlefield on foot alongside some Welsh infantrymen, shedding most of his clothing in order to disguise his identity as an English soldier. However, Barbour may be confusing Berkeley with Aymer de Valence, earl of Pembroke, since other sources have Berkeley captured alongside the earl of Hereford at Bothwell Castle in the aftermath of the battle.

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Effigy2MauriceBaronBerkeleyD1326Bristol Cathedral.jog fact he was now delivering a substantial number of prisoners to the king to add to the appeal of his submission.

Not all of the English sought to flee the field when the cohesion of the army began to fall apart. Sir Marmaduke Tweng - a Yorkshireman, despite his exotic-sounding name - was a veteran of several earlier campaigns and engagements, including the Battles of Stirling Bridge in 1297 and Falkirk in 1300, and he apparently recognised the danger in trying to escape southwards across the Bannock Burn. He must also have been too far south on the battlefield to reliably make for the castle, and so instead resolved to hide himself out of the way of the potentially vengeful Scots until he saw King Robert himself pass by. Tweng then presented himself to the king and surrendered himself into Bruce custody. As it happened, Tweng's mother had been Lucy Bruce, a descendant of Bruce's own ancestor and namesake Robert Bruce, 1st lord of Annandale (d. 1142). He may well have gambled that his status as Bruce's kinsman would afford him special treatment from the king, and if so he was to be proven absolutely correct. Bruce invited Tweng to reside for a time with the royal household, gave him gifts, and eventually sent him home to England 'Arayit weile but ransoun fre' (Bk. 13, Il. 538). Similarly courteous treatment was given to Sir Ralph Monthermer, a knight from County Durham who was apparently captured by the Scots down on the Carse on the second day of fighting. Bruce's generosity towards Monthermer is less obviously explicable they do not seem to have been kinsmen - but their friendship may have dated to Bruce's time in English allegiance from 1302-6. Some later sources credit Monthermer with having warned Bruce of an English



Bothwell Castle, perched above the River Clyde in Lanarkshire. A significant number of Englishmen sought refuge here following the battle, only to be turned over as prisoners to the Scots by the keeper Sir Walter Fitz Gilbert a few days later.

Image source: https://twitter.com/travelwithakilt/status/1000429842280648705



The print in the middle of the Bute Mazer, a communal drinking vessel created in the years after the Battle of Bannockburn, possibly even to celebrate the marriage of Bruce's daughter Marjory to Sir Walter Stewart (whose arms are represented here between the lion's paws). The arms to the left (as we look at it) of Stewart's arms are those of his cousin Sir James Douglas, who was knighted alongside Stewart by King Robert himself on 24th June 1314. The next arms along - featuring three ermine cinquefoils on a red field - are those of Sir Walter Fitz Gilbert, who submitted to King Robert as a result of the Battle of Bannockburn. Fitz Gilbert's inclusion on the print may reflect the fact that Marjory's release from English captivity was directly related to his capture of several notable English lords for Bruce, though there is also reason to suppose that the Fitz Gilberts may have had a hand in the creation of the mazer themselves.

Image source: https://www.flickr.com/photos/lwr/4352459952/

attempt to arrest him in 1306. As the victorious Scots tore through the abandoned English camp, plundering - as Barbour tells us - 'silver gold clathis and armyng/With veschall [tableware]' (Bk. 13, II. 447-8), they also found a Carmelite monk named Robert Paston. Baston had been brought north by King Edward himself with the intention of witnessing Edward's anticipated victory and composing a poem in commemoration of this feat. The wretched Baston was taken prisoner by the Scots and compelled to produce his promised poem, not now celebrating Edward's accomplishments but praising the achievements of King Robert.



The rather eccentric arms of Sir Marmaduke Tweng, one of the English lords who fought at Bannockburn. This charming design belies the serious warrior Tweng was; he is credited with being the only English knight to have fought his way back across the Forth at the Battle of Stirling Bridge in 1297.

Image source:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Earl\_of\_Scarbrough\_COA.svg

While his subjects were scattering or drowning or bargaining for their lives, Edward II was engaged in a frantic flight of his own. The English king appears to have initially withdrawn northwards in the direction of Stirling Castle, but either recognised the inherent risk in this or was warned off by the garrison (perhaps the last service Mowbray provided to Edward before his submission to Bruce). If Edward had taken shelter in the castle, it would surely have enabled the Scots to take him prisoner, which was after all their primary goal in the first place. Even if the garrison initially refused to surrender the castle to Scots (perhaps arguing that the terms of the deal had been met by Edward's arrival on 23rd), there would be nothing to stop the Scots encircling the castle once again starving those inside out. This would been made easier by the fact that the garrison's supplies were probably fairly tight even when Carrick had laid siege to the castle in late April/early May, and would not be able to sustain the vast number of Englishmen who had come to the castle in the wake of the English defeat on the Carse. Having crossed the Pelstream, Edward and his followers seem to have looped round behind the Scots, escaping down the western side of the battlefield across land that the Scots had abandoned in order to press their attack against the English in the Carse. Edward was shadowed by Sir James Douglas and about sixty Scottish horsemen, too few to surround and overwhelm the king and his company but certainly enough to harass any stragglers who fell behind from the group. Bruce appears to have been understandably cautious about allowing too many of his

men to give chase to the English beyond the Bannock Burn or the Pelstream, since the number of Englishmen who had escaped the field probably still outnumbered the Scottish army by some way. Edward covered the sixty miles from the battlefield to Dunbar within a day. While Patrick Dunbar, earl of March - one of the complainants who had induced Edward to mount his campaign into Scotland in the first place - allowed the English king to take ship to safety in England, he too afterwards submitted to King Robert, bringing most of the south-east under Bruce's control and further eroding what remained of English power in Scotland.

## 'A splendid and numerous army, if only they had had the Lord as an ally': The Lanercost Chronicle

Probably the earliest account of the battle, the Lanercost Chronicle may have been written with the benefit of testimony from ordinary English soldiers who had fought at Bannockburn. The priory was situated in Cumbria close to the Anglo-Scottish border, and for some fleeing the

battlefield the monks at Lanercost may have been the first friendly faces they saw after making it across the muddy banks of the Bannock Burn. Certainly, the anonymous author insists that they had his information 'from a trustworthy person who was present as an eye-witness'. That this 'trustworthy person' was one of the more lower ranked soldiers is suggested both by the general lack of detail and also by the fact on the second day of the battle the writer seems eager to excuse the flight of the ordinary soldiers at the rear of the English army. On the subject of lacking detail, the Lanercost chronicler notes the fall of Roxburgh in February and Edinburgh in March and offers a vivid account of Edward Bruce's rampage through north-west England in April (understandable since the priory may have come under threat during this raid). But it links none of these events to the build-up to the battle. Nor does it mention the petition to Edward in November 1313 or the pressures on Edward's remaining allies in Scotland. As far as the author is concerned, the lead-up to Bannockburn began 'about the feast of Pentecost', which would have been 26th May in 1314. This date is actually probably the date that King Edward received word about the deal between the garrison at Stirling and the besieging Scots.



Lanercost Priory in Cumbria. A frequent target for Scottish raiders, one or more of the monks here produced a chronicle that provides possibly the earliest surviving account of the battle. Unsurprisingly, the chronicler does not offer a particularly positive view of the Scots, but neither do they demonstrate much sympathy for Edward II.

Image source:

 $\underline{https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en\_GB/attraction/lanercost-priory-and-parish-church-st-mary-magdalene/$ 

The chronicler notes the absence of Thomas, earl of Lancaster, and 'the other English earls who were of his party', but places the blame for their absence at Edward's feet. Thus from the outset, the Lanercost chronicler makes it clear that they attributes the disaster at Bannockburn primarily to Edward's personal failures. Immediately after noting the absence of Lancaster, the chronicler adds that whereas Edward I had typically prefaced his campaigns into Scotland with visits to the shrines of the major English saints, Edward II had begun his campaign by placing exorbitant material burdens on the leading English monasteries and 'did and said things to the prejudice and injury of the saints'. This begins a common theme in the English accounts of the battle, in which the impiety of the English is emphasised (usually contrasted with the godliness of the Scots). The notion that the Lanercost chronicler relied on a lower ranked figure in the English army for his information is once again suggested by his relative lack of detail on the events of 23rd June. On the first day of the battle, only the mounted vanguard and Clifford's small detachment of cavalry (themselves probably part of the vanguard initially) engaged the Scots, and the extent to which their activities were known to the troops further back in the army is doubtful. The Lanercost chronicler makes no mention at all of the confrontation at the entrance to the New Park, and offers only a brief and somewhat confused narration of Clifford's encounter with Randolph. According to the chronicler, Clifford had sought to circumvent the Torwood - not the New Park - in order to cut off the Scots' retreat, his confusion probably the result of the garbled narrative as it reached the soldiers who were still on the march from Falkirk when the actual engagement took place. What is striking is the authors assertion that '[f]rom that moment began a panic among the English and the Scots grew bolder'. This is probably true enough and is a claim repeated across all three contemporary and near-contemporary English sources. The defeat of the most prestigious troops in the army by ordinary Scottish spearmen can hardly have inspired confidence in the common English soldiers and set the tone for the second day of fighting.

The main focus of the Lanercost chronicler's account is the second day, 'an evil, miserable, and calamitous day' in his estimation. They note the exchange of archery and even acknowledges that the English had the best of this bout of skirmishing. However, they then claim that before the main action began the Scots knelt and said the Lord's Prayer, again contrasting how the Scots' faith contributed to their victory



The arms of Sir Ralph Monthermer, lover of Edward II's elder sister Joan of Acre and, for a brief period before her death in 1307, earl of Gloucester. Although he had been granted lands in Annandale (Bruce's own lordship) following King Robert's inauguration in 1306 and been besieged by Bruce at Ayr in 1307, the pair seem to have enjoyed a friendly relationship between Bruce became king, a fact that worked in Monthermer's favour when he was captured at Bannockburn in 1314.

Image source:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Monthermar.svg



Thomas, earl of Lancaster (left), and St George, as depicted in an early fourteenth-century manuscript (Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS Douce 231). Lancaster was King Edward's cousin but also his most committed political opponent, and he refused to join the campaign into Scotland in 1314. His eagerness to promote himself as the model of knightly piety contrasts sharply with the Lanercost chronicler's depiction of Edward's ungodly behaviour ahead of the Battle of Bannockburn, although the reality may have been less clear cut.

mage source:

https://www.oxforddnb.com/view/10.1093/ref:odnb/97801986141 28.001.0001/odnb-9780198614128-e-

Edward. The author also notes that the Scots advanced in three 'columns', with two approaching the English abreast while the thin

over the supposedly ungodly

English abreast while the third remained in the rear as a reserve. The writer attributes command of the reserve to King Robert but declines to name the commanders of the two leading divisions. Perhaps this is because the sight of the Scottish royal banner situated on the ridge above the action was particularly striking to an English soldier located further back in the English army, whereas the banners of the Scots in the front line may have been obscured by the mass of men in front of him. This impression certainly fits with one of the more famous passages from the *Lanercost Chronicle*:

...when both armies engaged each other, and the great horses of the English charged the spears of the Scots, as it were into a dense forest, there arose a great and terrible crash of spears broken and of destriers wounded to the death; and so they remained without movement for a while. Now the English in the rear could not reach the Scots because the leading division was in the way, nor could they do anything to help themselves, wherefore there was nothing for it but to take to flight.

This offers a striking and intriguing insight into the experience of the Battle of Bannockburn from the perspective of an ordinary infantryman stuck at the rear of the English army. As far as many of the common English soldiers may have been concerned, the battle may have been nothing more than an engagement between the cavalry and the Scots in the distance, followed by a brief and confusing period of frantic but ineffectual manoeuvring to get close enough to the Scots to have an impact on them, and then a hasty withdrawal from the field altogether.



The ruins of Dunbar Castle in East Lothian. It was from here that Edward II ultimately sailed for safety in England, with the help of the local magnate Patrick Dunbar, earl of March. Although March subsequently submitted to King Robert, his decision not to seize the English king and deliver him to his pursuers did not help the earl's prospects for liberal patronage from the Bruce regime in the years after 1314.

Image source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Dunbar\_Castle\_-\_geograph.org.uk\_-\_1690820.jpg



The heavily-graffitied tomb of Edward II at Gloucester Cathedral. The *Vita Edwardi Secundi* was written in the early to mid-1320s, at a time when Edward and his royal administration felt unassailable. The narrative ceases abruptly in 1325 however, and within two years Edward would have been forced to abdicate and (probably) killed by his captors.

Image source:

https://www.gloucester cathedral.org.uk/visit/things-to-do/highlights/edward-ii-tomb.php

After listing off those noblemen killed in the fighting along the front line of the Scots, the Lanercost chronicler proceeds to bemoan the loss of life in the attempt to re-cross the Bannock Burn, from which 'many were never able to extricate themselves'. The escape of Edward is noted, along with that of his 'right eye' (i.e., favourite) Hugh Despenser and Henry Beaumont, and is attributed to the assistance of a Scottish knight who guided the king's party to Dunbar. However, the chronicler is in no doubt of the 'perpetual shame' due to the king for his flight, and is similarly critical of the fact that while Edward and his household escaped Dunbar by boat most those who had accompanied him there were left to make their own way back to England. The Lanercost chronicler notes that Pembroke escaped on foot along with 'the fugitive Welsh' (which may indicate that Barbour had confused Berkeley for Pembroke in his poem) and recounts how Hereford and his companions were 'treacherously' betrayed by the keeper of Bothwell Castle. The writer adds - with a sense of implied criticism - that 'certain knights were captured by women'. Although they claim that Hereford and co. were forced to endure 'a lengthy imprisonment', the chronicler contradicts himself soon afterwards by stating that the earl was back at liberty by the Feast of St Michael (29th September). The author states that Hereford had

been exchanged for Robert Wishart, Bishop of Glasgow, (an early Bruce partisan), Donald, earl of Mar, (Bruce's nephew, who in the event refused to return to Scotland), Queen Elizabeth, Bruce's daughter Marjory (from his first marriage), and his sister (in fact probably both of his captive sisters, Christian and Mary). The rest of the noble captives were exchanged for 'heavy pecuniary ransoms', so heavy in fact that it apparently took some of them until early 1315 to secure their release. Where precisely the chronicler gathered this information is uncertain, but they was probably no longer relying on the same source as they had for the events of the battle. For their subsequent narration of the depredations of the Scots on northern England in the wake of Bannockburn, the author was probably drawing on bitter personal experience, as they report that the Scots passed close by Lanercost Priory as they returned from a raid that had penetrated as far south as Richmond in August 1314.

### 'O day of vengeance and disaster, day of utter loss and shame': The Vita Edwardi Secundi

Written by an anonymous member of Edward II's court, the *Vita* offers in effect the 'official', sanitised English explanation for the defeat at Bannockburn. In contrast to the Lanercost chronicler, the author is at pains to exonerate Edward II and to apportion the blame among the rest of the English leadership (although even they cannot avoid directing a degree of criticism towards the English king in places). Unsurprisingly given the author's closeness to the heart of the English government, they are better informed about the build-up to the battle than the Lanercost chronicler had been. However, even the *Vita* foreshortens the story slightly. It begins its narrative with news reaching Edward II of 'the destruction of the Scottish towns, the

capture of castles, and the breaching of the surrounding walls', but this is dated to 'the beginning of Lent' in the *Vita*. Ash Wednesday - the first day of Lent - would have been on 20th February in 1314, around the time when Douglas seized Roxburgh Castle, but we know that King Edward responded to the petition sent by Patrick Dunbar, earl of March, and Sir Adam Gordon on 28th November 1313. Thus preparations for the campaign were already underway some months before the *Vita* claims they began. Interestingly, the *Vita* states that Sir Philip Mowbray (who is not identified by his name but merely by his office 'constable of Stirling') himself came to the king to tell him of the 'truce' he had been forced to negotiate with the Scots, surely a reference to the deal he had cut with Edward Bruce. Again, while it may be true that Mowbray himself was allowed to leave the castle to deliver news of the deal to King Edward, this does not appear to have occurred until much before 27th May. Eager to emphasise the king's care for his Scottish allies and his keen interest in the maintenance of English royal authority north of the border, the *Vita* insists that Edward 'was very much grieved, and for the capture of his castles could scarcely restrain his tears'. However, immediately the author launches into their first effort to excuse the subsequent defeat - the intransigence of the English political community.

When Edward attempts to convince his earls and barons - so the *Vita* tells us - to muster for the campaign into Scotland, their initial response is to demand a parliament be summoned at which the matter can be discussed and debated 'in accord with the Ordinances'. The Ordinances were in essence a set of restrictions placed upon the English crown, based on long-standing grievances and developed by a council of twenty-one prelates, earls and barons in the period 1311. Edward's intense political weakness following his return from Scotland in 1311 had forced him to formally accept the conditions placed upon him by the Ordinances, but he had since taken every opportunity to renege on these obligations and they had remained a point of contention among the English political community ever since. One of the Ordinances stipulated that the king should not muster a host without first consulting parliament - an attempt to curtail the English crown's ruinous military spending in recent decades - and so

the Vita's claim that some among the English nobility demanded this be observed in 1314. Three of the five English earls who ultimately refused the muster ahead of Bannockburn - Lancaster, Warwick, and Arundel - were themselves members of the council that had drawn up the Ordinances in the first place, and would continue to be staunch supporters of the Ordinances after Bannockburn as well. Of course, the Vita has Edward insist that the relief of his beleaguered allies in Scotland requires urgent action and thus cannot be postponed so that parliament can discuss it. The author then states that certain unnamed 'counsellors and household officials' advised the king to proceed without the contentious earls and barons, confident that even a diminished force would be sufficient to deal with the Scots. Here we see the author of the Vita drawing on a theme already present in the Lanercost Chronicle - the arrogance and overconfidence of the English army as a contributing factor to their eventual defeat - but simultaneously absolving Edward of the responsibility for this by shifting the blame onto his crooked counsellors. The notion of deep divisions among the English frustrating Edward's hopes is also a repeated motif in the Vita's account of the Battle of Bannockburn.

While explicitly noting the absence of the earls of Lancaster, Surrey, Arundel, and Warwick, the author of the *Vita* still seeks to present the English army as an impressive military force. The writer makes the bold (and wholly unrealistic) claim that if the English baggage train had been laid end-to-end it would have stretched some twenty leagues (just short of seventy miles, meaning that by the time the front had reached Stirling, the rear would have barely left Melrose!). Yet they also treat this as an opportunity to reinforce the impression of hubris among the English army, stating 'some thought if the whole of Scotland had been gathered together, they would not have stayed to face the king's army'. The excuse-making then begins again with the observation:

Brief were halts for sleep, briefer still for food; hence horses, horsemen and infantry were worn out with toil and hunger, and if they did not bear themselves well it was hardly their fault.

In fact, as noted in yesterday's post, the English advance seems to have been relatively leisurely. The distances covered with each day's march (roughly twenty miles from Edinburgh to Falkirk on 22nd), but this was undertaken largely through friendly territory and their progress does not appear to have been contested until they arrived at the New Park on 23rd June. Furthermore, this also included a three-day stop at Edinburgh. The notion that the English army was particularly exhausted or overworked by the time it reached the vicinity of Stirling then is somewhat difficult to credit.



A sixteenth-century (fictionalised) depiction of a thirteenth-century English parliament, presided over by King Edward I of England and attended by the King of Scots and the Prince of Wales. Edward's failure (or more likely unwillingness) to consult parliament ahead of the 1314 campaign made the whole enterprise illegitimate in the eyes of those among the English political community who insisted on the strict observation of the Ordinances and furnished his political opponents with an excuse not to participate.

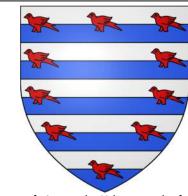
Image source:

 $https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File: Medieval\_parliament\_edward.Jpg$ 

As well as confirming the point that command of the vanguard was shared between Gloucester and Hereford, the *Vita* offers us the earliest surviving account of the famous encounter between Robert Bruce and Sir Henry de Bohun. According to the author, on emerging from the Torwood the English spotted the Scots 'straggling under the trees [of the New Park] as if in flight', in response to which Sir Henry led a body of Welsh infantrymen to investigate. The author claims that Sir Henry hoped to kill or capture the Scottish king, but it quickly turned out that this was a trap, with Bruce and the Scots suddenly attacking the approaching force. As the *Vita* puts it:

...the said Henry, seeing that he could not resist the multitude of Scots, turned his horse with the intention of returning to his companions; but Robert opposed him and struck him on the head with an axe that he carried in his hand.

The author that the Scots even killed Sir Henry's squire as he tried to rescue his lord's body. The purpose of this passage is of course to portray King Robert and his fellow Scots as brutish and uncouth villains, callously killing the bold Sir Henry as he attempted to flee and even slaying his (probably quite young) squire. While these details may have been embellished to exaggerate the Scots' cruelty, this passage certainly offers a potential insight into English perceptions of the actions on the first day of the battle. Given that they probably expected the Scots to withdraw without offering battle at all, finding the Scots still in the New Park on 23rd June may well have led the English vanguard to believe that they had caught their enemies unawares. Furthermore, the fearsome resistance they then encountered at the entrance to the New Park may have been sufficiently shocking to the English to make them feel as if they had been ambushed (or at the very least misled).



The arms of Aymer de Valence, earl of Pembroke. Pembroke had been one of the ordainers but after the brutal treatment of the king's favourite Piers Gaveston by the king's opponents in 1312 he became a staunch 'royalist'. The *Vita* claims that Pembroke was dispatched into Scotland at the head of an advance party 'to seek out the ambushes of the Scots', although no other source confirms this.

Image source:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Blason\_Guillaume\_de\_Valence\_(William\_of\_Pembroke).svg

The *Vita* conflates the skirmishes at the New Park and St Ninians into a single 'sharp action', but it notes the embarrassing facts that 'the Earl of Gloucester was unhorsed, and Robert de Clifford disgracefully routed'. The direction of the audience's attention to the failures of the king's lieutenants is a theme the author of the *Vita* revisits several times. As with the *Lanercost Chronicle*, the *Vita* does not offer any commentary on the movement of the English army in response to the setback at the New Park, but it does provide some intriguing information on developments in the English camp. According to the author, the English feared the Scots would attack under cover of darkness, and thus they got no rest through the night. In the morning, the 'veterans' in the English army advised taking a day to rest and recuperate before attacking the Scots the following day. However, this advice was overruled by 'the younger men' in the army, who insisted on giving battle as soon as possible. This juxtaposition of the wisdom of older men and the rashness of youth was a common moralising tool among medieval authors, but it is not wholly convincing in this case. For a start, it is difficult to see what advantage waiting would have given the English in this context. Inaction would simply have given the Scots the opportunity to withdraw without offering battle, and even if they did remain in the New Park the English would have no guarantee that the Scots would not attack them during the night of 24th (and thus could expect just as restless a night as they had suffered on 23rd). Indeed, the author of



The face-off between King Robert and Sir Henry de Bohun, as depicted in Walter Bower's *Scotichronicon* (1440s). This illustration broadly follows the details of the encounter laid out by John Barbour, Archdeacon of Aberdeen, in the 1370s, whereas the author of the *Vita* endeavours to present Bruce in a far less heroic and impressive light.

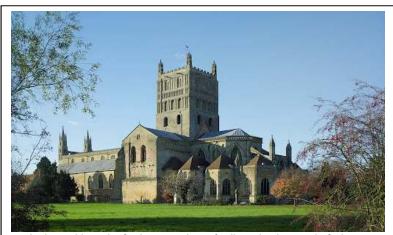
Image source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Battle\_of\_Bannockburn.jpg

the *Vita* tells on themselves almost immediately by claiming that the king's twenty-three year old nephew Gilbert de Clare, earl of Gloucester, (hardly a veteran) also insisted that the English army should rest for an additional day. This leads to a row between Edward and his nephew, in which the former calls the latter a traitor and a liar, spurring the young earl into committing to proving his uncle wrong. Here, the author is seeding the circumstances of Gloucester's impending death.

Like the *Lanercost Chronicle*, the *Vita* presents the Scots as formed up in three divisions and offers a fascinating description of their equipment and tactics:

...not one of [the Scots] was on horseback, but each was furnished with light armour, which a sword could not easily penetrate. They had axes at their sides and carried lances in their hands. They advanced like a dense hedge, and such a crowd could not easily be penetrated.

Elsewhere in the text, the use of infantry to overcome the English heavy cavalry evokes in the writer thoughts of the Flemish victory at the Battle of Courtrai in 1302, something that occurs in another of the English sources as well. The author (incorrectly) attributes leadership of the Scottish vanguard to Douglas, and presents this force as clashing directly with the English vanguard led by Gloucester. Unconvincingly, the author even claims that Gloucester's division actually penetrated the Scottish line, a notion likely intended to present the English as at least having had some small degree of success in the fighting. However, the *Vita* quickly reverts back to finger-pointing and recrimination. Having claimed that Gloucester's horse was killed under him, the



Tewkesbury Abbey, the final resting place of Gilbert de Clare, earl of Gloucester. Bruce and Gloucester's wives were sisters, making them brothers-in-law according to fourteenth-century canon law. It is probably for this reason that King Robert had Gloucester's remains sent to England at his own expense following the Battle of Bannockburn.

Image source: http://www.visittewkesbury.info/things-to-do/heritage/tewkesbury-abbey/

knights who 'had neither drawn their swords nor even struck a blow'. As the royal banner withdraws, the whole English army also begins to scatter, and the author (rather briefly) observes the difficulty many of them had in negotiating the Bannock Burn. They are more interested however in the actions of Mowbray (who remains unnamed in the text) following Edward's escape from the field. Interestingly, the author is somewhat equivocal in their judgment on Mowbray's role, claiming to 'neither absolve the castellan nor accuse him of treachery' while noting that there were some who viewed his refusal to allow Edward into the castle as a betrayal. The writer is undoubtedly correct that had the king taken refuge in the castle

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The Biblical flood, as depicted from f.8r in the Holkham Bible. The rather grisly depiction of the drowned people and animals offers some sense of what the various English chroniclers may have had in mind when describing the death and misery caused when the defeated English army tried to retreat across the Bannock Burn towards the end of the hattle.

Image source:

https://www.bl.uk/catalogues/illuminatedmanuscripts/ILLUMIN.ASP ?Size=mid&IIIID=23998

author states that he was:

'borne down by the weight of his body armour [and] he could not easily arise, and of the five hundred cavalry whom he had led to battle at his own expense...they stood astonished and brought him no aid'

Not content with heaping blame on Gloucester's feckless followers, the writer also includes an alternate explanation for Gloucester's death - his own rashness. The motivation for the inclusion of these apparently contradictory stories may simply be a reflection of the author's eagerness to launder Edward II's reputation by comparison with his inept subordinates. Crucially, in doing so the *Vita* furnishes with details of the dispute between Gloucester and Hereford over command of the vanguard, offering a valuable insight into the disunity among the English leadership. In the *Vita*, Sir Giles d'Argentan - who is acknowledged as having 'the king's rein' in this account - rushes forward in a hopeless attempt to rescue Gloucester, but he is killed in the process.

With Gloucester and many other prominent figures in the army already dead and the vanguard clearly shattered, the author of the Vita reports that Edward *prudently* decided to withdraw from the battlefield, taking with him at least two hundred



The capture of Charles de Blois at the Battle of La Roche-Derrien in 1347, as depicted in a fifteenth-century manuscript of Jean Froissart's *Croniques*. While the illustration is considerably later than the Battle of Bannockburn, it gives at least a sense of the chaos and confusion of a medieval camp being ransacked by a victorious army, just as happened in the English camp on 24th June 1314. Image source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Capture\_Charles\_de\_Blois.jpg

he would have ultimately been taken prisoner, and the ambivalence the author shows towards Mowbray is probably best understood as a lingering sourness over the fact that Mowbray subsequently submitted to King Robert. A similar bitterness is detectable in the *Vita*'s complaint that the Scottish commons turned against the fleeing English soldiers as they raced southwards towards the border. The author is

also likely correct in attributing the successful escape of so many Englishmen to the fact that the Scots (who after all, were not earning a wage by fighting in Bruce's army) were more inclined to pillage the English baggage train than to pursue their defeated foes. Finally, the *Vita* wraps up its woeful tale by citing Biblical parallels to the English experience at Bannockburn. In doing so, the author reflects the judgment of the Lanercost chronicler that the ungodliness of the English cost them the battle, while still emphasising that it was 'the proud arrogance of *our men* [my italics] made the Scots rejoice in victory' and thus once again distancing Edward II from the worst of the blame for this disaster.

## 'The English have lost heart and are defeated, they expect nothing but a sudden, open assault': The Scalacronica



Norham Castle, perched high above a ford in the River Tweed, directly on the Anglo-Scottish border in the fourteenth-century. Gray's father had been constable of Norham from 1319-31, and Gray himself was constable from 1346-55, demitting the office only by dint of his being captured by the Scots. According to Gray, Norham was once voted the most dangerous place in Britain by a group of young knights due to its frequent involvement in the conflicts between Scotland and England.

Image source: https://www.bl.uk/catalogues/illuminatedmanuscripts/ILLUMIN.ASP?Size=mid&IIIID=23998



The arms of Sir Thomas Gray (both senior and junior). Father and son had long and active careers in service to the English crown, furnishing the latter with an impressive collection of stories and remembrances with which to enliven his chronicle.

Image source:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Thomas\_Grey\_of\_Heato n Arms.jpg

Sir Thomas Gray of Heaton was a knight from Northumberland with a fairly impressive martial reputation, earned in service to the English crown in war both on the Continent and against the Scots. However, in 1355 he was captured by a company of Scots led by Patrick Dunbar, earl of March (the same aging earl who had facilitated Edward's escape after Bannockburn), and spent around two years as a prisoner at Edinburgh Castle. During his incarceration, Gray had access to the castle's library and began the composition of the Scalacronica (the 'Ladder Chronicle'). Though the chronicle begins with the creation of the world, it is the later portions of the text that excite the most interest, since from around the outbreak of the First War of Scottish Independence the author begins to rely on the reminiscences of his father (another Thomas Gray), and later his own experiences, to recount events. The elder Thomas was heavily involved in the Anglo-Scottish wars of the late thirteenth- and early fourteenth-centuries, and thus the Scalacronica offers a fascinating and somewhat personal insight into the English experience of these conflicts. Happily, the chronicler's father was present at Bannockburn, and so his account of the battle is of particular relevance here. There are some obvious problems with Gray's report. The reliability of the elder Thomas's recollections - not least his willingness to share information that would embarrass him or harm his reputation - may be questioned, and he witnessed only a relatively small part of the action at the battle (as will be examined in more detail below). We must therefore be cautious about taking Gray's word uncritically when it comes to events for which his father was not present.

Oddly, Gray begins his narrative where the previous two accounts end, noting Edward's defeat, Gloucester's death and Hereford's capture before announcing his intention to recount the circumstances of these dramatic events. Then, rather than shortening the build-up to the battle as the Lanercost chronicler and the author of the *Vita* do, Gray looks to the capture of Perth (in January 1313) as the starting point of

the lead-up to the battle, but ignores (or was more likely ignorant of) the petition of November 1313) and jumps straight to the siege of Stirling Castle (leadership of which he attributes to King Robert, rather than his brother Edward). Gray does however offer the most detailed explanation of the deal that was struck between the Scots and the garrison at Stirling. According to Gray, the garrison would consider themselves relieved if the

English king came within three leagues (about nine miles) of the castle and the deadline was given as 'within eight days of St John's day' (which would actually have given the English army until 1st July to arrive). When Edward duly arrived within three leagues of the castle - so Gray tells us - Mowbray (this time mentioned by name) was allowed to approach the king and warned of at least some of the preparations made by the Scots. However, Gray insists that the young men (ioenes gentz) in the English army would not pause and instead pressed on to attack the Scots. Here again we see the divisions among the English leadership being expressed in terms of the young lords contrasted with the wiser council of their more experienced elders. Unlike the author of the Vita, Gray seems to include Gloucester among the former group, as immediately afterwards he briefly recounts the repulse of the vanguard, which Gray claims was led by Gloucester alone. It is here that Gray acknowledges the killing of Sir Henry de Bohun by King Robert, albeit misnaming Sir Henry as 'Peris [i.e., Pierre] de Mountforth', this confusion probably proceeding from the fact that Gray's father was elsewhere when this skirmish was fought.

It is for Gray's description of his father's exploits at Bannockburn that the Scalacronica is most striking and potentially useful. While the English vanguard came to grief at the entrance to the New Park, the elder Thomas accompanied Clifford and Beaumont's cavalry division around the Scottish lines towards St Ninians. Interestingly, despite not mentioning the disputed leadership of the vanguard, Gray does claim that the smaller cavalry detachment was led jointly by these two experienced noblemen. The inclusion of Beaumont here may simply be an effort by Gray to inflate his importance, since his father was part of Beaumont's affinity. However, it is certainly in keeping with the command structure of the English vanguard that the two men would be expected to share the responsibility of leading this single unit, and the confusion this would likely have caused among the troops may help to explain the outcome of this manoeuvre. While he offers no explanation of what Clifford and Beaumont hoped to accomplish by circumventing the Scottish position - particularly frustrating since the other sources that mention this incident provide conflicting reports - Gray does state that they found their way blocked by a force commanded by Thomas Randolph, earl of Moray (who Gray acknowledges as Bruce's neuew, or nephew). There then follows a dispute between Beaumont and Gray's father, the former insisting that the English give Randolph and his men space to form up while the latter suggests it would be



The Declaration of Arbroath, ostensibly a letter from the barons of Scotland - but more likely heavily-influenced by the Scottish royal administration - to Pope John XXII. Sir Alexander Seton, who Gray credits with having defected from the English to the Scottish side on the evening of 23rd June, is one of the barons named in the document. Image source: https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/Declaration



The arms of the Randolph earls of Moray, as depicted in the late fourteenth-century *Armorial de Gelre*. Regularly described by King Robert as 'our dearest/beloved nephew', Randolph was Bruce's most trusted kinsman and as such played a crucial role at Bannockburn, repulsing the English at St Ninians on 23rd June and leading one of the two main divisions into the Carse on 24th.

Image source: https://uurl.kbr.be/1733715

more effective to attack them before they can deploy properly. When Beaumont accuses Gray senior of cowardice, the latter is provoked into charging recklessly among the Scots, where his horse is killed and he himself is captured. His companion Sir William Deyncourt is also killed in the fighting, and Gray goes on to relate how the rest of the force is subsequently scattered by Randolph's spearmen. This exchange again offers some insight into the tensions and divisions that appear to have riven the English army at Bannockburn. Yet it surely also serves to mitigate the circumstances of his father's imprisonment, establishing the elder Thomas as a prudent and cautious warrior before presenting his capture as the result of a justifiable attempt to defend his reputation in the face of Beaumont's slanderous accusation.

Unlike the *Lanercost Chronicle* and the *Vita*, Gray does offer a description of the English movements on the evening of the 23rd, stating that they:

...abandoned the way through the wood and had come to a plain towards the River Forth, beyond the Bannock Burn, an evil deep boggy stream...

More immediately interesting than his description of these manoeuvrings (which at least confirm Barbour's somewhat later account of the events) is the author's commentary on developments within the Scottish came between the first and second days of the battle. While caution must still be taken in examining Gray's claims, his father was uniquely placed to gain particular insight into this aspect of the affair, since he was by this point a prisoner of the Scots and possibly being held in the New Park, where the Scottish army remained encamped until the morning of 24th. According to Gray, after the first day of fighting the Scots:

...reckoned that they had done well enough during the day's fighting, and were on the point of decamping and moving into the Lennox, a more defensible country...

This is certainly a believable claim. After all, until the deal was made between Edward Bruce and the garrison at Stirling, the planned Scottish response to Edward II's invasion was probably to avoid contact with the English altogether, and the Lennox



The arms of Sir Giles d'Argentan. Praised by Barbour as 'the thrid best knycht perfay/That men wyst lyvand in his day' (Bk. 13, II. 321-2), he had been a prisoner in Salonika when Edward II began his preparations for the campaign that would end at Bannockburn, having been captured at Rhodes while on crusade. King Edward actually negotiated Sir Giles's release from captivity specifically so he could accompany the English army into Scotland.

https://learning.battleofbannockburn.com/battlepedia/characters/giles-d%E2%80%99argentan/#.YNPABmhKhPY

would indeed be a region in which the heavy, slow-moving English army would struggle to effectively pursue the more mobile Scottish army. Bruce had even used the Lennox for precisely this purpose during Edward II's invasion of Scotland in 1310. However, Gray reports that the Scots were convinced to remain and to press their advantage by one Sir Alexander Seton, a Scot who defected from the English army on the evening of the 23rd and informed his countrymen of the demoralised state of their foes. Seton's defection is also believable enough. As a minor Lothian baron, Seton had havered between English and Scottish allegiance throughout the recent conflict, for the most part finding it safer to align himself with the English to protect his lands in the south-east from depredation. His time in English service does not particularly seem to have soured Bruce's opinion of Seton either. He was serving as the steward of the king's household by 1317, and by the end of the reign he was warden of the king's son and heir David. Any tales of the sorry state of the English army brought by Seton were probably welcomed and believed by the Scottish king, but the notion that this ultimately convinced the Scots to attack is probably overstated by Gray. It is hard to believe that the Scots significantly altered their plans based on the report of a single defector, though Seton's intelligence surely helped King Robert secure the assent of his subordinates to carry his plan to fruition.

On the following morning, Gray has the Scots advance towards the English army, who 'had been armed all night, their horses bridled'. Nonetheless, this apparent state of alertness does not prevent them from being quickly hemmed in against the banks of the Bannock Burn, into which Gray tells us many fell. Gray draws a comparison between the Scottish tactics at Bannockburn and the Flemish tactics at Courtrai, just as the author of the *Vita* had done. Unlike in the *Vita* however, in the *Scalacronica* Edward's escape is not the result of the king's prudence but rather a design forced upon him by his bodyguards. Gray also confirms the impression that the Scots specifically sought to capture King Edward, at least towards the end of the fighting. He even claims that the Scots got close enough to grab the caparison of the king's horse,

forcing Edward to defend himself with a mace. As in the *Vita*, Sir Giles d'Argentan is credited by Gray as having the king's rein (literally holding the reins of the king's horse so as to be able to direct its movements as appropriate) and personally leading Edward away from the fighting. Once the king is out of immediate danger however, Sir Giles addresses Edward, stating that he is 'not accustomed to fleeing' before charging back into the melee and being killed. While the exact circumstances of Sir Giles's death in the *Scalacronica* contradict the *Vita*, his ultimate motivation - an unwillingness to flee - remains the same. Gray makes no mention of Edward's flight to the castle, but does imply that the English king took a somewhat circuitous route to reach Dunbar. Here, Gray claims that Earl Patrick not only allowed Edward to take ship for England, he also vacated the castle altogether 'so that there should be neither doubt nor suspicion that he had done anything to his king save his duty'. It is difficult to discern here whether Gray was seeking to promote the knightly virtue of his captor here (presenting March as a faithful and honourable subject of whichever king he served) or trying to embarrass the earl by reminding his audience of March's shifting allegiances! Certainly, at the time that Gray was writing, March cannot have appreciated a reminder that he had been instrumental in facilitating Edward II's escape after Bannockburn. Yet the *Scalacronica* probably had little if any circulation in Scotland, and thus Gray's comment is probably best understood as an effort to assure his readers of the chivalric worthiness of the man who in 1355 had taken the author prisoner.

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A number of his historical blogposts can be viewed @ <a href="https://drcallumwatson.blogspot.com/">https://drcallumwatson.blogspot.com/</a>

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#### ON THE FRONT COVER...

Artwork by Andrew Hillhouse; part of his Scottish Wars of Independence collection. https://www.andrewhillhouseprints.co.uk/photo 13837857.html#photos id=13837856

## Battle of Bannockburn, Day Two, Mon 24th June, 1314



A painting that compresses all the main events of the second day of the battle. The Scots' forces first appeared to the English along the low ridge, at the upper left of the painting, where the knelt to pray. Seeing them kneel, the English King, Edward II, called out "Ha! They kneel for mercy!" misunderstanding their intent. The Scots then stood up and marched in their schiltrons down the hill, straight towards the massing English knights, under cover from their own archers. The English archers reacted swiftly, however, and quickly drove the few Scots archers from the field. Beneath this ridge is the line of casualties where the two armies first clashed. The well drilled Scottish lines held at the impact of the poorly organised English cavalry, however, then began driving back the English in a relentless, murderous, crushing slog. The lines were packed so closely together that English support from their archers quickly became impossible.

In the lower left of the image, two Scottish soldiers can be seen holding aloft the standard of the English Earl of Gloucester, taunting the English lines. Gloucester had been stung by accusations of cowardice from his own king the day before. Subsequently, upon seeing the Scots' advance, he hastily formed up the vanguard of the English cavalry and charged without even pausing to don his own surcoat. With great bravery, he charged the Scottish lines but went down under the spears of Edward Bruce's men. Without his surcoat, he was not recognised as a potentially valuable hostage and was killed by the rampaging Scots. Behind these two characters, Scottish foot soldiers take English knights hostage.

In the far distance, to the right hand side, men can be seen running from horses. The English had redeployed their now redundant archers across the Pelstream Burn, on the Scots' left flank, where they wreaked total havoc amongst the Scotsmen under the

command of the Black Douglas and Walter the Steward. But the Bruce had foreseen just such a development and deployed the Scots light cavalry under Sir Robert Keith in a circuitous movement to dispatch them. Unseen by the English, they tracked swiftly through the concealing countryside to take the English archers by surprise and drove them from the field.

In the centre of the painting can be seen the huge Lion Rampant, the position of King Robert. It was at this point that the Bruce deployed his own schiltron, with support from Angus Og MacDonald and his highlanders, who he had previously held in reserve. As they smashed into the thick of the battle, the English began to lose heart. They were being driven back mercilessly and yet most had been unable to reach the front line to strike a blow. They could not manoeuvre effectively in the tight confines and on such broken terrain. Many fell beneath the crush, never to rise again and panic began to surge through their ranks.

English King Edward was persuaded to leave the field by his advisers as order in the English ranks collapsed and he fled for nearby Stirling castle with his escort. Upon seeing the Royal Standard, three golden leopards on a scarlet background, leaving the field, the English collapse became inevitable as depicted in the right hand side of the painting.

The Scottish archers returned to the field to wreak havoc upon the fleeing English. The "small folk" abandoned their reserve position by Coxet Hill and took to the field. It is unlikely that Robert the Bruce ordered this charge, but its effect was devastating upon the already retreating English forces. Seeing these hundreds of figures rush into battle carrying workmen's tools as weapons and waving homemade banners, the English mistook them as another Scottish reserve force entering the fray. Subsequently, they totally disintegrated and fled the field, pursued in every direction by vengeful Scots. The rout was complete. King Edward eventually reached English occupied Stirling Castle but was refused entry by the castle commander, Sir Philip Moubray, as this would only have resulted in the King's ultimate capture. He and his retinue were pursued relentlessly south and east to Dunbar by the Black Douglas.



## **BANNOCKBURN**

by: Robert Burns (1759-1796)

At Bannockburn the English lay,--The Scots they were na far away, But waited for the break o' day That glinted in the east.

But soon the sun broke through the heath And lighted up that field of death, When Bruce, wi' saul-inspiring breath, His heralds thus addressed:--

"Scots, wha hae wi' Wallace bled--Scots, wham Bruce has aften led--Welcome to your gory bed. Or to victorie!

"Now's the day, and now's the hour; See the front o' battle lower; See approach proud Edward's power--Chains and slaverie! "Wha will be a traitor knave? Wha can fill a coward's grave? Wha sae base as be a slave? Let him turn and flee!

"Wha for Scotland's king and law Freedom's sword will strongly draw, Freeman stand or freeman fa'--Let him follow me!

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

"Lay the proud usurpers low! Tyrants fall in every foe! Liberty's in every blow! Let us do or die!"

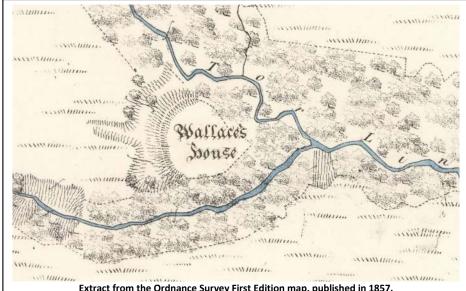


### Conserving Heritage and Habitat at Wallace's House

Originally published Tuesday, 05 May 2020 by Forestry and Land Scotland

https://forestryandland.gov.scot/blog/wallace-s-house

An unusual archaeological survey by Forestry and Land Scotland adds a new chapter to an old story, of a fort built by William Wallace and an unlikely victory...



Extract from the Ordnance Survey First Edition map, published in 1857.

The New Statistical Account of Scotland was compiled using the responses to a questionnaire sent to every minister in every parish in Scotland, and was published between 1834 and 1845. The Account contains rich and detailed parish reports for the whole of Scotland, covering a vast range of topics including agriculture, education, trades, religion and social customs.

The New Statistical Account is also a useful source of archaeological information. Section II (Civil History), Question 8 regarded the antiquities of the parish. Ministers were asked to note "any crosses or obelisks erected in the parish, ruins of religious houses, of ancient camps, altars, roads, forts and traditions connected therewith. Whether any medals, coins, arms or other pieces of antiquity have been dug up in the parish, when they were found and in whose custody they are now. Any barrows or tumuli, and whether they have been opened and what was discovered."

In the parish of Kirkmichael in Dumfriesshire, a massive earthen rampart cuts off the promontory above the confluence of the Black Linn and the Tor Linn. It has never been excavated and little is known about its history. However, the New Statistical Account records "a small fort, commonly called Wallace's House, adjoining Torlinn, a glen filled with natural oak... This fort commands an extensive view to the south, occupying the summit of an angle formed by the junction of two branches of that steep ravine; and being protected on its third side by a large fosse [or ditch], it must have been a strong place of defence. Sir William Wallace, while meditating the capture of the castle of Lochmaben in 1297, is said to have kept sixteen men there, with whom he sallied forth to annoy the English garrison under Greystock and Sir Hugh of Moreland."



David Connolly of Skyscape Survey preparing for take-off © Matt Ritchie 2020

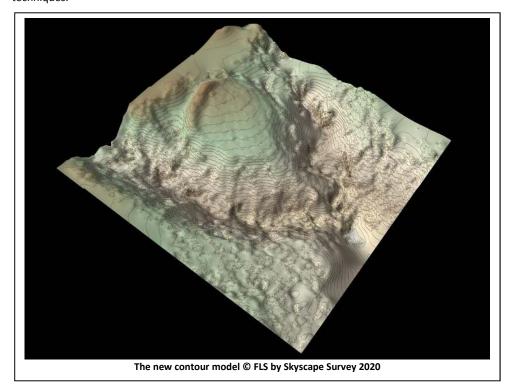


An aerial view over the fort facing south east towards Lochmaben © FLS by Skyscape Survey 2020

The story continues. "Having taken some of their horses, Wallace was pursued to Torhead by Moreland, who, in the encounter which ensued, was slain, with several of his followers. Greystock, enraged at this defeat, and strengthened by fresh supplies from England, immediately proceeded to attack Wallace with 300 men. Overpowered by numbers, he fell back among the hills; and being joined by Sir John Graham of Dundaff with thirty men, and Kirkpatrick, his kinsman, with twenty of his retainers, was overtaken on the north border of the lands of Holehouse, near the bottom of Queensberry, where a general engagement took place. Greystock fell; the victory was complete; and the survivors seeking shelter in the wood from which they had pursued the Scots. Wallace reached Lochmaben before them, and took possession of the castle."

The fort was recently surveyed by archaeologists using a remote-controlled drone. They took hundreds of photographs from the air and processed them using pointmatching software to create a 3D terrain model, stripping away scrub and ground vegetation. Height detail is refined by adding close contours and orthographic colour.

Forestry and Land Scotland Archaeologist Matt Ritchie oversaw the project: "In recent years we have been working with Skyscape Survey to develop the methodology of drone-generated photogrammetric survey, combining accurate survey methods with innovative visualisation techniques."

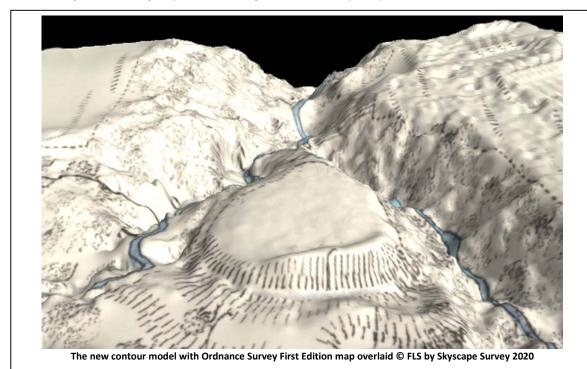


Matt continues: "The contour survey adds to a history of cartographic work that began with the Ordnance Survey in 1857. Our new 3D model enables the massive rampart of the fort to really stand out, and the deep gullies of the two linns to be appreciated. It really must have been 'a strong place of defence', the rampart topped with a timber palisade and enclosing timber buildings built to house the soldiers and their horses. Could the fort really have been built by William Wallace and his men? I'd like to think so – and, either way, the survey has added a new chapter to an old story!"

Regional Environment Advisor Bill Coombes agrees: "Over the past six years our apprentices have been working to remove the non-native conifers from the two steep sided Linns which protect and create the promontory fort. The glens are rich in biodiversity with mature native Oak, Ash, Birch, Rowan, Alder, Willows and all the associated flora and fauna. These ancient semi-natural woodlands form a key part of an important habitat network. We are expanding them by increasing the area of

native broadleaves that we plant along the riparian corridors, with the retention of deadwood to further enhance the biodiversity."

"This is a site where ecological and heritage objectives come together to create a special place."



References

The new statistical account of Scotland by the ministers of the respective parishes under the superintendence of a committee of the society for the benefit of the sons and daughters of the clergy (1834-1845). Edinburgh. Page(s): Vol 4, 69 - <a href="https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/home">https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/home</a>



# Flowers of the Forest

Flowres of the Forest is an ancient Scottish folk tune typically played to honor fallen soldiers.

Our Flowers of the Forest tradition as a clan is to pay tribute to our own "fallen soldiers",

our extended Clan Douglas family members.

Contact your local Regent, one of our Clan Douglas Officers, or the Newsletter Editor to submit a tribute.

Flowres of the Forest: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rfsasAllCo8
Apologies in advance, if you have to suffer through any ads.



### Jolanda "Jody" Faye Bjerke Glendenning May 20, 1941 – December 15, 2021

Jolanda "Jody" Faye Bjerke Glendenning passed away peacefully on December 15, 2021. She was born May 20, 1941 in Grafton, North Dakota; graduated from Hoople High School in 1959, and went on to attend the UND School of Medicine, where she earned a degree as an Occupational Therapist, and was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta. As an Occupational Therapist, she was patient and kind, working with "her kids" to improve their lives. Her fondest memory was riding her horses, the Appaloosa or the Red to School.

One of her residencies was as an OT at St. Luke's Hospital, beginning in January 1964, when she met [North Minnesota Regent] John "Jock" Glendenning and then were subsequently married in October, 1964 in Hoople.

She began working in Duluth for the Polinsky Rehabilitation Center. When it moved to Miller-Dwan, she designed a turtle for the "kids" to crawl through. Later, when St. Luke's OT Department expanded to the overpass at 10th Avenue East, Jody began working there. After a few years, a position became available at the

school district, and she applied. At Merritt, she met many of her "pals." Later on, she began working at Northwoods—Chester Creek Academy, where she really became attached to "her kids." She enjoyed traveling with her family, camping, Shrine parades, and just being at home.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Clifford and Doris Bjerke. She is survived by her husband, John "Jock"; children: John, Scott, and Heather, six grandchildren, and her sister, Barbara Brubakken.

Always ready to help, she served on the boards of Aftenro and Sons of Norway, as well as serving as President of the Mrs. Jaycees, and was a member of the Junior League.

## Alex Beaton July 15, 1944 – May 27, 2022

It is with heavy heart that I announce the passing of Alex Beaton on May 27th. He died peacefully here at home with his devoted wife, Linda, by his side.

Alex was born and raised in Glasgow, Scotland beginning in July of 1944. Alex had a wonderful career in folk music. His professional career started when he was 19 years of age with two school pals. They formed a folk group, "The Cumberland Three" in 1964 and recorded a single "45 RPM" and an LP "Introducing The Cumberland Three". This was at the end of the folk boom and the rise of pop groups and so, the group disbanded and Alex immigrated to the U.S. in the early summer of 1965. He lived with his sister and brother-in-law in the small town of Ballston Spa, New York. It was there he performed at an upscale restaurant, The Jamaica Inn. He sang weekly on a local television program in Albany and produced a show for Public TV in Schenectady.

In April of 1966 while as a permanent resident he was drafted into the U.S. Army as they were building up military personnel for Vietnam. He then enlisted for a third year where he could choose his military occupation (Personnel).

Alex was stationed at Fort McClellan, Alabama, and after three months there, he entered a talent competition and was offered a job with the Third Army Soldier Shows in Fort McPherson in Atlanta, Georgia. He was the lead singer of this theatrical show. While there he received orders to a hospital in Germany, but the Director said that he could arrange for Alex to stay with the Soldier Shows.

He decided to transfer to Germany where he could be closer to his family in Scotland. After taking a leave of absence to travel back to Scotland to visit family he reported to Headquarters in Frankfurt. It was there while checking in with Personnel that the Clerk inquired about the Soldier Shows. The Clerk then arranged for Alex to have a Temporary Duty to audition for the Chorus stationed in beautiful Heidelberg. He passed the audition and joined the 7th Army Soldiers Chorus and performed throughout Germany and other European countries. He left the Chorus with six months left on his service commitment. Upon discharge he returned to Atlanta, Georgia and joined Capital Records, but after several months there was given the chance to return to The Jamaica Inn. Because Alex loved entertaining, he left Capital Records and moved back to upstate New York.

He had the bug to travel and see other States, so he eventually moved to Aspen, Colorado and, from there, to Phoenix, Arizona. He sang in a lounge at a well-known restaurant and his popularity caught the attention of the Phoenix Gazette where an article was written about him. From Phoenix he moved to Southern California in the Greater Los Angeles area. While there, he composed songs with his old army buddy and took third place at the International Song Festival in the Country Music category. While appearing at Bob Burns Restaurant in Woodland Hills, California Alex grew the interest of the Scottish Society of Los Angeles and they asked him to perform at their Annual Festival in 1983. He recorded an LP of Scottish Folk Music, "Sings of Scotland Forever" which he sold at the festival and became an instant hit. From there, Alex appeared at other Scottish Festivals (San Francisco, San Diego and Phoenix). From 1983 until he was injured in 2011, Alex regularly performed at various festivals and Highland Games throughout the United States.

Alex pioneered folk music at Scottish Festivals. His popularity grew to the point where he was appearing at all major Festivals around the country; opening the door for other Entertainers to follow. In 1996 Alex also began hosting annual tours to Scotland which were sold out every year.

A month after returning from one of his Scotland tours in 2011, Alex suffered a freak accident at home that left him paralyzed from the neck down. Over the past eleven years, he has suffered multiple bouts of pneumonia and regretfully last year saw his prostate cancer return and spread to his bones. Though he remained COVID free throughout this Pandemic, the toll on his lungs proved too great and eventually they gave out.

Alex loved entertaining live audiences and garnered a large following throughout the country who, even after being out of the public eye for so long, continued to touch base with him. He was so blessed and grateful for the love and support of his loyal fans and friends over the years. This support, along with a great medical staff and the continuous care by his wife and stepson kept him going for far longer than the his doctors expected.

Alex leaves behind his wife (Linda), two daughters (Ali and Catie), a stepson (John), a granddaughter (Maggie), a brother (Neil) and his wife (Anne), three nieces, one nephew, two grandnieces and three grand nephews.

Per his request, he will be cremated and his ashes taken to Scotland. He also requested that there be no funeral or memorial service. He would like you to remember him in your own way and in your own time. Please know that he had a good life; lived it on his own terms and managed to carve out a career for himself doing something he loved.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: As far as I know, Alex Beaton was not a Douglas descendant or a descendant of one of our many Clan Douglas septs and allied families but Alex was a well-known and much admired member of the greater Scottish community who entertained so many of us for decades.]

#### **GOING HOME**

Going home, going home I'm just going home Quiet light, some still day I'm just going home

It's not far, just close by Through an open door Work all done, care laid by Going to fear no more

Mother's there expecting me Father's waiting, too Lots of folk gathered there All the friends I knew All the friends I knew

I'm going home

Nothing's lost, all's gain
No more fret nor pain
No more stumbling on the way
No more longing for the day

Going to roam no more

Morning star lights the way Restless dream all done Shadows gone, break of day Real life begun

There's no break, there's no end Just a living on

Wide awake with a smile Going on and on

Going home, going home I'm just going home It's not far, just close by Through an open door I am going home I'm just going home

Going home, going home

[Repeat]

https://www.lyrics.com/lyric/4647063/Annie+Haslam/Going+Home

The Clan Douglas Society of North America is looking for CDSNA members willing to represent CDSNA in multiple areas of United States & Canada.

If you know of a US state or Canadian province that holds an annual Celtic/Scottish festival and that festival welcomes multiple clans along its clan row but Clan Douglas is not represented at the festival,

OR

If you would like to become a CDSNA Regent and represent Clan Douglas at an annual Celtic/Scottish festival not currently represented by a CDSNA Regent,

contact CDSNA VP Mark Peterson, CDSNA AVP (East) Harold Edington, or CDSNA AVP (West) Cora Peterson to share information.

\*\*\* More than one Regent may operate within a state or province to provide coverage for events. \*\*\*

In the US, CDSNA needs Regents in...

ALASKA (Palmer area &/or Homer area)

**CONNECTICUT (Round Hill Highland Games)** 

**IDAHO** (Boise area)

**ILLINOIS** (Chicago area)

**IOWA (Quad Cities area)** 

KANSAS (Wichita area)

**KENTUCKY** 

LOUISIANA (Minden area)

MAINE (Brunswick area, - Maine Highland Games)

MASSACHUSETTS (Florence/new Hampton area - Glasgow Lands Scottish Festival)

**MISSISSIPPI** 

MONTANA (Hamilton area &/or Kalispell area)

**NORTH CAROLINA (Wilmington area)** 

RHODE ISLAND (not aware of any Scottish events in RI)

**SOUTH CAROLINA (Co-Regents & tent helpers)** 

**SOUTH DAKOTA (Aberdeen area)** 

**TEXAS** (multiple events, mainly South Texas)

**VERMONT (White River Junction area - Quechee games)** 

WYOMING (Cheyenne area)

In Canada, CDSNA needs Regents in...

BRITISH COLUMBIA (Vancouver/Coquitlam area)

ONTARIO ([1] Fergus area, [2] Coburg area, [3] Uxbridge area)

The only thing worse seeing at a Scottish/Celtic than an empty Clan Douglas tent is no clan Douglas tent at all.



## ORMOND BEACH CELTIC FESTIVAL April 23-24 -- Ormond Beach, Florida

After the COVID Pandemic disruption, the 11th Annual Ormond Beach, FL Celtic Festival returned to its usual April weekend held at The Casements - John D. Rockefeller's winter home and surrounding pavilion. Clan Douglas returned to its usual place along Clan Row.

On both Saturday & Sunday, the weather was sublime - with constant sun, temperatures in the 70's, and a mild easterly breeze blowing off the ocean. Even so, the event was only moderately attended. A total of 17 clans were present along clan row and only one pipe and drum band performed each day. Historically, vendor participation is plentiful. This year's festival had a multitude of vendors displaying and selling their wares.





L-R: Marc Hitchins, former North Florida Regent, Jeff Sparks - North Florida Regent, Mark & Sally Hill

Led by our new Regent, Jeff Sparks, our usual 'cast of characters' were present, accounted for, and worked diligently throughout the weekend. They included Mona Sparks, Sally & Mark Hill, and Marc Hitchins. Along with the absence of some of our other regular clan members, we missed the presence of our clan treasurer, Tom Douglas, who recently had heart surgery. We did have the opportunity to speak with Tom by phone. He is well on his way to recovery and looking forward to joining us at future events.

As is tradition, we marched in the Clan Parade both days. When introduced by the Master of Ceremonies, we loudly proclaimed "A Douglas, A Douglas". At the Sunday "Kirkin of the Tartans", we had our Douglas tartan blessed by the clergy holding the service.

We answered a multitude of questions from those seeking their Scottish affiliation. Among others, the questions included those involving history, events, culture, the clan system, clothing, weapons, the geography of Scotland, food, and travel. All of us have been to Scotland, at least once, so the conversations were enlightening. It was also fun to share our adventures. Several inquiring people, who qualify, took member applications and are considering joining our clan. One existing member renewed his membership for three years. Additionally, some stores inventory was sold out of the Douglas merchandise supply.

This concludes another successful Games season in Central Florida. The Ormond Beach Celtic Festival will return again next April to The Casements, and rumor has it that the Mt. Dora Games will return in November. Please join us.

Aye, Jeff Sparks Florida (North) Regent

### 



Clan Douglas Cap Badge \$22.00

Needing a new Douglas cap badge or kilt pin?
Use the CDSNA Store Goods
Order Form on page XX



Clan Douglas Kilt Pin \$22.00

## Regent Jeff Sparks; **Our new Florida (North) Regent**

I began attending the Central Florida Scottish Games in 1995 where I would get to visit with my aunt & uncle - Ed & Ginny Douglass. Uncle Eddie served as the 1st North Florida Regent from 1992 - 2002. While at the games I got to learn more about Scotland, the athletic events, single malt scotch, and Clan Douglas. The excitement from attending these games also prompted Mona and me, along with her cousin Sally Hill and husband Mark Hill, to take a 1500 mile tour of Scotland. We're looking forward to going back soon. Little did I know 20 years later I would be stepping into Uncle Eddie's shoes. I hope to make all of Clan Douglas proud.

I've attended many games since then – mostly in Central Florida. But have also gone to the Stone Mountain and Savannah games. And I've hosted our clan tent in Dunnedin, FL (where you can stand at the corner of Douglas Ave & Scotland St) to support my cousin Geoff Douglass who played in a pipe band. It's always nice to meet the variety of people we have in the clan.

It took me a while, but I have made the plunge and now own 2 Douglas kilts - Ancient and Weathered. Uncle Eddie called the weathered tartan the camouflage tartan as it's predominately olive in color. We have a weathered tartan banner in our tent that is dedicated to him. I wear that tartan proudly in remembrance of him and usually carry the banner in the Tartan parade at each Games.

Mona & I are making arrangements to attend the Portland Highland Games and attend the GMM. Hope to see you there!

Jeff



Mona & Regent Jeff Sparks

## **Southern Maryland Celtic Festival April 23, 2022 -- St. Leonard, MD**



The Highland games and associated festivals are back in full swing here in Maryland. On April 23rd, the Southern Maryland Celtic Festival took place in St. Leonard near the beautiful Patuxent River.

It was a wonderful event with warm temperatures reaching a comfortable 74 degrees which in turn brought a good number of visitors to this one day

festival. It was nice to see old friends from other Clans and a bit somber to not see others after a few years' hiatus.

My daughter Briana and I were joined by Virginia Regent Scott Douglas and his wife Michelle and all had a good time getting back into the swing of things.

Looking Forward to our next event in June and we'll share our pictures and experiences with you from a brand new festival kicking off for the first time in Westminister, Maryland.

Slainte.

James Agnew Maryland Regent



L-R: VA Regent Scott Douglas, Briana Agnew, Michelle Douglas, MD Regent James Agnew



### Dakotah Blair named new CDSNA Regent in Southern Oregon

Dakotah Blair, born in Vermont and raised primarily in New England, is a licensed veterinary technician in Eugene, OR. Dakotah loves her career helping animals and their humans live their healthiest and happiest lives together. When she isn't at work, she enjoys cuddling with her dog Jazz, reading, writing, and playing an epic campaign of Dungeons and Dragons with her friends.

While Dakotah is a relatively new active member of Clan Douglas, she looks forward to learning more about her heritage and representing our clan at as many festivals and events her dog will allow. She strives to build friendly relationships with the members of CDSNA in her region and would welcome all clan members to stop by at her tent at any festival she attends. On occasions Jazz is also in attendance, she would welcome a snack too.





## PHOENIX SCOTTISH GAMES March 4-6 – Gilbert, Arizona

Clan Douglas was at the Phoenix area games this Spring in a new location – the Gilbert Regional Park. The weather was Arizona perfect, but late in the day the wind kicked up and several clan tents suffered for it... including ours! Once repairs were made, the weekend went without another hitch

We had two hereditary Clan Chiefs at the games and each made their way from tent to tent greeting the clans as they should). The Clan parade for opening ceremonies had the usual family and crew and several "honorary members" who joined in, so we had excellent representation. Seems like the world is getting back to somewhat normal and the vendors (food and others) were in greater numbers than in the last few games we have been to. Just as in the Tucson games, Queen Mary was seen wandering about and the highland bands gave great entertainment as they marched around the grounds as well.

Thanks to Beve for turning out to help. Our next appearance will be the Flagstaff games July 16 and 17 at Fort Tuthill County Fairground & Park.



Yours aye,

Barb Wise Arizona Regent



### **Kentucky Regents Retire**

After serving as CDSNA Regent for Kentucky (and at times Tennessee also) for 36 years, it is time for me to submit my resignation. When my father (Dr. Gilbert F. Douglas, Jr.) asked me to set up a tent to represent CDSNA at the first Glasgow (KY) Highland Games in 1986, I never anticipated such a lengthy tenure! My husband Dan and I have thoroughly enjoyed our involvement as Regents but realize it is time to offer this responsibility to someone else.

Forward!

Elizabeth & Dan Martin

A HEARTy THANK YOU to you both for all your years of service to the Society.



## NORTHEAST FLORIDA SCOTTISH GAMES & FESTIVAL February 26 – Green Cove, Florida

The Northeast Florida Scottish Games and Festival 26 February 2022 were held at the Clay County Fairgrounds in Green Cove Springs, Florida. A absolutely beautiful day was enjoyed by all. There was a good turnout for the Games.

We had President Emeritus Mark Douglas and his wife Nancy grace our booth again this year. We were also blessed with Florida Regents Marc Hitchins and Jeff Sparks, Jeff's wife Mona, Mark & Sally Hill, Dennis & Tatiana Stone, Jill, Larry & Ann Chapman and Jill Ross, who made her famous Cock-A-Leeky soup that is absolutely delicious!

Heartfelt thanks to Marc Hitchins for his assistance in setting up the booths and helping to pack it away with the assistance of Marion Hurst, Jeff & Mona Sparks, Debbie & Sarah Conrad, Caroline Geary and new member Cynthia Bailey.

We also added new member Jeff Bossard to our ranks and member Lee Doyle renewed and upgraded his membership to a Life Member!

We had several people stop by the booths to make inquiries. We handed out several applications for membership. We hope they will join us in Clan Douglas!

We enjoyed a ringside seat to most of the games. The pipe bands were grand! A good time was had by all (and a wee dram or two).

Come join us next year at the Clay County Fairgrounds in Green Cove Springs, Florida for the 29th Annual Northeast Florida Scottish Games and Festival on Saturday February 25th 2023. We hope to see you there!

Yours aye,

Dennis Conrad NE Florida Regent



L-R: North FL Regent Jeff & Mona Sparks, NE FL Regent Dennis Conrad, & North FL Regent Emeritus Marc Hitchins

## SAVANNAH SCTTISH GAMES & CELTIC FESTIVAL

May 7 – Savannah, Georgia

The 44th Savannah Scottish Games and Celtic Festival was held at the beautiful grounds of the Historic Bethesda Academy in Savannah, Georgia on 2022.

We had a beautiful day for the Games! Regents Marc Hitchins and Jeff Sparks along with Debbie Conrad and Mona Sparks helped to set up the tents, banners and flags and to get things organized... and also to pack everything up, with the assistance of Jill Ross and Linda Arenburgh.



May 7th,

Longtime Member David Crampton stopped by for a visit and he was the lone piper playing "Flowers of the Forest" as the names of the dearly departed were read, including our very own Randy Bartle, Past Regent for Georgia (East) and a

loyal and enthusiastic Douglas Clansman. In our booth, we raised a dram of scotch in toast of respect, thanks, and *Auld Lang Syne* to Randy. He is sorely missed, but never forgotten.

We had several people stop by our tents and take membership forms with them. I hope they will join our family and come back next year. We had in attendance, of course the aforementioned members Marc Hitchins, Jeff and Mona Sparks, Dave and Heather Crampton along with members Eric, Frankie and Max Ware, Jill Ross, Linda Arenburgh, Carole Anthony, Fred Douglas and Amy Douglas. We had 5 March with us in the Parade of Clans, Marc Hitchins, Carole Anthony, Jeff and Mona Sparks, and this author. Sarah Conrad and Caroline Geary made Scottish Shortbread and Orange & Cranberry muffins from scratch to pass out to our guests and members. Thank you ladies. They were delicious!



Debbie Conrad

A grand time was had by all. We had several people stop by for fellowship, a wee dram or two, and a bit of information on the Clan or their sept. We enjoyed visiting with all and do hope they will come back next year to the 45th Savannah Scottish Games and Celtic Festival on May 6th 2023.

Yours aye,

Dennis Conrad GA (South) Regent



CDSNA Storekeepers announce a new Men's t-shirt design will be available soon (but I am certain it will also look great on everyone else, not just men.)

Sizes range from SM – 3XL; Ordering info & cost will be made available soon.



The back of the t-shirt features original artwork by Andrew Hillhouse -- Castle Dangerous - seat of the Black Douglas — and the right to use the artwork was graciously provided to CDSNA by Vicky Hillhouse, wife of Andrew. You can view this artwork and other original artwork by Andrew Hillhouse @ <a href="https://www.andrewhillhouseprints.co.uk">https://www.andrewhillhouseprints.co.uk</a>





# NEWS FROM ALL OVER

# SPRINGFIELD (IL) AREA HIGHLAND GAMES May 14 – New Berlin, Illinois



Robert & Vilynn Douglas with Regent Tim

Greetings! We have now unofficially moved into summer 2022 and the Highland Games season is upon us once again. This was my second year hosting a tent for Clan Douglas at the Springfield Area Highland Games in New Berlin, IL. And once again I was glad to have Harold Edington come over from Missouri to help me out with double the tent space. In addition to Harold and his wife Jennifer, my sister Emily, her two boys and my brother Steve also came to help us out. Missing this year was our dear Douglas lady, Ramona Douglass (who had a prior commitment). We had many visitors to our tents, including CDSNA member Linda Scheaffer and her husband Bobby, potential members Robert & DiLynn Douglas and a number of others who just stopped by to say "hi" because we were just that awesome.

Clan Douglas was well represented in the tartan parade by Douglases (including Linda & Bobby, Scheaffer), and Kirkpatricks. Thank you for being there. If you made it -- and I apologize that I don't remember everybody's names -- but we were definitely glad to have a crowd.

Many standard features of a Highland Games were all there, including athletic events, bagpipes, Highland dancers, musical groups, vendor tents, highland cows, whisky tasting, and my personal favorite Irish Wolfhounds. So if you missed us this year please make plans to come back and visit us May 23 next year.



And for those of you in and around Illinois come see us at upcoming events The Peoria Irish Fest Aug 27-29 at the riverfront and the Washington MO Highland Games/ 9/11 Remembrance held September 10 at the VFW Hall in Washington MO.

Look forward to seeing you!

Tim Kirkpatrick Illinois Regent





L-R: Steve Kirkpatrick, Regent Tim, Linda & Bobby Scheaffer, Regent Harold







# NEWS FROM ALL OVER

# SMOKY MOUNTAIN SCOTTISH FESTIVAL & GAMES May 21-22 --- Townsend, Tennessee

The Smoky Mountain Scottish Festival and Games on May 21st and 22nd were a sight to behold with the beautiful view of the Smoky Mountains and the sounds of bagpipes all day. The new location in Townsend TN did not disappoint. We had many visitors to our tent and we welcomed many Douglas family members both new and returning.

All the kiddos of clan Douglas had a blast with the Kids Games/Challenges. All the kids events from the Haggis Hurl to the Stone Throw, the Caber Toss to the 50 yard dash there was a Douglas clan kiddo in every event.

Big congrats to Mr. Christopher O'Dell at placing 2nd in the Bonniest Knees Contest!

We look forward to returning to the mountains for next year's festival!

TN Regent

Derek, Brittany, Mia, and Lesley Douglas



Tartan parade (left to right) Richard Colwell, Mia Douglas, Ivan Colwell, Marlene Douglas, Kevin Douglas (Kevin also walked our Douglas flag in the Veterans parade)



Douglas Clan Tent (left to right) Brittany, Mia, Lesley, and Regent Derek Douglas, Skyler Chastain, Tyson Chastain, Betsy Chastain. Pups are Star, Brooklyn and Stella



Retired KY Regents Dan & Elizabeth Martin enjoying the events





Regents... Please remember to submit your post-event narratives to the newsletter editor as soon as possible after your event. If you include photos (and you should), please include captions/descriptions of anyone in the photo. Email narratives & photos to the Editor.

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For CDSNA Regents manning the Douglas tents at festivals all over North America, one of the most commonly asked questions by festival goers is "Why is THAT name a Douglas name?" In 2009, one CDSNA member took on the responsibility of finding an answer for each name in our clan's list of septs and allied families... and the CDSNA Septs & Allied Families Project was born.

Since 2012, research from the Septs & Allied Families Project has led to several new names added to our Douglas list.

#### Gladstanes/Gladstain/Gladstone was accepted by CDSNA as an allied family in 2022.

In an article found in *The Scottish Review*, Florence M. Gladstone, writing about *The Gladstanes of Oldetime* stated:

Among the names added to the Deed of Homage or 'Ragman's Roll' at Berwick on August 28, 1296, is that of 'Herbert de Gledestan del counte de Lanark.' The only other trace of this man is a seal of about the same date as the signature, which is also preserved in the Record Office, London, but most probably he and his sons descended from the peel tower on Bell Craig, to take part in the struggles for freedom under Wallace and Robert Bruce. It may be that the friendship which undoubtedly existed between this family and the Bruces caused one of the de Gledstans to join that ill-fated company who, in 1330, started with Lord James Douglas for the Holy Land in order to bury the heart of their royal master in sacred soil. This is conjecture, but we know that shortly after this date the Gledstanes were staunch retainers of the Earls of Douglas, and a tradition exists that their shield bore originally an orle of martlets, the bleeding head of a savage or Saracen being added to commemorate a feat of arms in the Crusades. It is, therefore, by no means impossible that their armorial bearings were adopted in memory of this expedition, just as the Douglases henceforward bore a bleeding heart, and the Lockharts gained the heart and padlock on their shield.

Probably some Gledstanes fought under the banner of Douglas in the disastrous battle of Neville's Cross, for in 1346 William and Paterick de Gledstaines were obliged to renew their homage, and are mentioned among those who delivered up to Edward III. the Castle of Roxburgh and other Border fortresses.

The glimpses we get of this William de Gledestanes, who must have been a son or grandson of Herbert, are typical of the eventful history of the times. He is described in 1346 as of Mintowe, in Teviotdale, and he seems to have made his principal residence on the Borders rather than at the ancestral home in Lanarkshire. Both properties were held from the first Earl of Douglas, and, ten years after he had sworn loyalty to Edward III., William de Gledestanes accompanied his over-lord to France in order to fight against the English. There he bore himself so bravely that the Earl belted him a knight-banneret on the battle-field of Poitiers, September 19, 1356.

Regarding William de Gladstanes, Gladstone continues,

The last years of his life were spent in serving the Earl of Douglas as bailie for the barony of Cavers, close to Hawick, and in suppressing the smuggling of wool over the frontier at a time when the tripled duty on its export was being devoted to the payment of the king's ransom.

Gladstone then focuses on James Gladstanes and writes:

In 1413 we find James Gladstanes acting as bailie for the then Earl of Douglas, just as his grandfather the 'chivaler' had done more than fifty years before, but until 1482 we can trace little more of Coklaw Castle and its owners. It was a period of special difficulty. The pride and arrogance of the Douglases had at last brought about their ruin, and, after the murder of the heads of the house in 1455, James II. divided their vast possessions, part being retained by the Crown, and part being given to loyal subjects. Gledstanes, with other properties in Lanarkshire and Peebles, was granted to the fourth Earl of Angus, but only came into possession of his son. We do not know who may have been lairds of Coklaw at this time, but there is a Gorgon de Gledstanys of Hundwellishop (Hundleshope) who died in 1456, when his property passed into the king's ward, and a John de Gledstanys, who in 1463 witnessed the re tour of the fifth Earl of Angus, better known as 'Bell the Cat.' This is probably the father of Johannes Glad-stons of that Ilk and Coklaw, who from 1482 acted as bailie to the Earl of Angus, although the record of his doings in Peebles proves that he must have made a bad magistrate.

Veitch, writing in 1880 for Fraser's Magazine for Town and Country in an article titled "Mr. Gladstones Ancestors. The Gledstanes of Gledstanes and Cocklaw: A Chapter in an Old Scottish Story" says (pp. 810 & 811):

We now come to a curious incident in the history of the family. There is ahistorical fact tolerably well ascertained, known as the Siege of Coklaw... This was on the lands of Ormiston. It was the property of the feudal vassal of Douglas – Gledstanes of Gledstanes and Coklaw.

William Fraser, writing in *The Douglas Book*, devoted a small section of his writing to the association between the Gledstanes and the 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Douglas; and, after the Battle of Arkinholm, to the Gledstates and the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> earls of Angus.

#### THE DOUGLASES AND THE GLEDSTANES.

One of the few remaining Douglas muniments relating to William, first Earl of Douglas, which has been preserved, requires special notice: It is a letter of protection addressed by the Earl to Sir William of Gledstanes, knight, as his bailie of the barony of Cavers, charging him to defend the abbot and convent of Melrose in their freedoms and privileges, as lords of the lands of Ringwood, within that barony. The letter bears date at Melrose, on the 24th of April 1360. It is written in the French language, which the first Earl of Douglas frequently used, having been educated in France.

The family of Gledstanes of Gledstanes, like that of the Douglases, was connected with the county of Lanark from an early date. Herbert of Gledstanes is the first of the name who has been found on record. The Christian name of Herbert was a very common one in the subsequent history of the family. Herbert swore fealty to King Edward the First in the year 1296 for lands in the county of Lanark. These were, no doubt, the lands of Gledstanes in the parish of Liberton, now the united parish of Liberton and Quothquan.

Besides holding the important office of bailie under the first Earl of Douglas, Sir William of Gledstanes was associated with the Earl in his military exploits in France. He accompanied the Earl to that country in the year 1356, and was belted a knight at the battle of Poitiers.

The office of bailie held by Sir William of Gledstanes under the first Earl of Douglas, was continued in the family of Gledstanes in the time of Archibald, fourth Earl of Douglas, afterwards first Duke of Touraine. This appears from a precept which was granted by that Earl to James of Gledstanes on the 4th November 1413. The connection between the Earls of Douglas and the family of Gledstanes, indeed, appears to have lasted as long as the Earls of Douglas themselves. Forty years after the forfeiture of the ninth Earl and his brothers, in the year 1455, Hugh Douglas, dean of Brechin, who was son of Hugh Douglas, Earl of Ormond, brother of the last Earl of Douglas, entered into an indenture at Edinburgh, on the 24th January 1490, with his kinsman Archibald, fifth Earl of Angus, then Chancellor of Scotland, and best known as "Bell the Cat." Amongst other matters agreed on between the two kinsmen, the dean became bound, immediately after entering to the lands of Glenfquholm, Pettinane, Gledstanes, or any other lands belonging to the Earls of Douglas, or Earl James, Lord Avondale, or the dean's father, the Earl of Ormond, in the shires of Lanark, or Peebles, or elsewhere in Scotland, to resign into the hands of the king the fee of such lands in favour of the Earl of Angus and his heirs, reserving to the dean only the liferent of the lands resigned till he obtained promotion to a dignity or benefice by the help of the chancellor.

George, fourth Earl of Angus, had obtained from the crown a grant of the forfeited estates of Douglas, in the year 1457, but his son and heir, "Bell the Cat," may have had difficulty in making the grant effectual, in so far as related to Gledstanes and the other two landed estates mentioned in the indenture. The chancellor, therefore, deals with his cousin the dean as heir-male of the Earls of Douglas, Avondale, and Ormond, to complete his feudal title to Gledstanes and the other lands, and thereafter to dispone the fee to Angus. We know from other records that Pettinain belonged to the Earl of Ormond at the time of his forfeiture. Portions of Pettinain were granted to other persons than the Earl of Angus, and "Bell the Cat" may have wished to dispute these grants, as coming in place of the Earls of Douglas, Avondale, and Ormond. This accounts for Angus dealing with his cousin the dean to assist him in recovering the lands of Gledstanes, and others.

From that claim of the Earl of Angus, as coming in place of the Earls of Douglas, to the lands of Gledstanes either in superiority or property, it may be inferred that these lands had originally belonged to the barons of Douglas along with their other Lanarkshire estates, and been granted by them to Herbert of Gledstanes, whose descendants continued to be closely connected officially with the Earls of Douglas.

#### Sources:

Fraser, William. The Douglas Book – Vol 1. Edinburgh: Printed by T. and A. Constable, at the Edinburgh University Press, 1885, pp. xlv-xlix. Internet resource.

Gladstone, Florence M. "The Gledstanes of Gledstanes and Cocklaw, 1296-1741." *The Genealogist-Vol ix*, 1893, pp. 153–157, https://archive.org/details/genealogist09selb/page/n5/mode/2up.

Gladstone, Florence M. "The Gladstanes of Oldentime." The Scottish Review- Vol 27, 1896, pp. 324-336.

Veitch, J. "Mr. Gladstones Ancestors. The Gledstanes of Gledstanes and Cocklaw: A Chapter in an Old Scottish Story." Fraser's Magazine for Town and Country, 1880, pp. 805–816.



~ Sept/Allied Families articles coming soon ~ September issue of **Dubb Gblase**: **Kidston** 

# PORTLAND GMM NEWS



The Portland Highland Games have been cancelled for 2022

# but CLAN DOUGLAS SOCIETY OF N.A.

www.clandouglassociety.org

will still be having its

**2022 General Members Meeting** 

& Gathered Members Meal

Friday & Saturday, July 15 & 16, 2022.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR DETAILS



# **CLAN DOUGLAS SOCIETY OF N.A.**

#### **2022 CDSNA General Members Meeting**

# **Event Schedule**

#### Friday Night

@ 6 p.m... Meet and Greet @ **Genos Grill** for a *No Host Dinner & Social Hour*Genos Grill, 3035 NE Kane Dr., Gresham, OR
<a href="https://www.facebook.com/genos.sportsbar.grill">https://www.facebook.com/genos.sportsbar.grill</a>
(4 mi. from MHCC and 3 mi. from Holiday Inn Express)

#### Saturday

@ 11:30 a.m... Lunch @ McMenamins Edgefield Power Station Pub: 2126 SW Halsey St, Troutdale, OR McMenamins Edgefield also houses a distillery, shopping, and numerous entertainment venues

#### Saturday Night

CDSNA General Members Meeting & Dinner @ Holiday Inn Express

Meeting will begin @ 7 p.m. and will feature...

- Construction Projects Multi-Media Presentation
- CDSNA Members & Events Multi-Media Video
- Awards
- SILENT AUCTION

Event Hotel: Holiday Inn Express 12.8 miles from PDX.

Ph. 503.669.6500 477 NW Phoenix Dr, Troutdale, OR 97060

Reference "Clan Douglas"

Book early as there are two major events
at this time of year.

King Bed \$159/Night
(2) Queen Beds or King Suite \$169/Nt



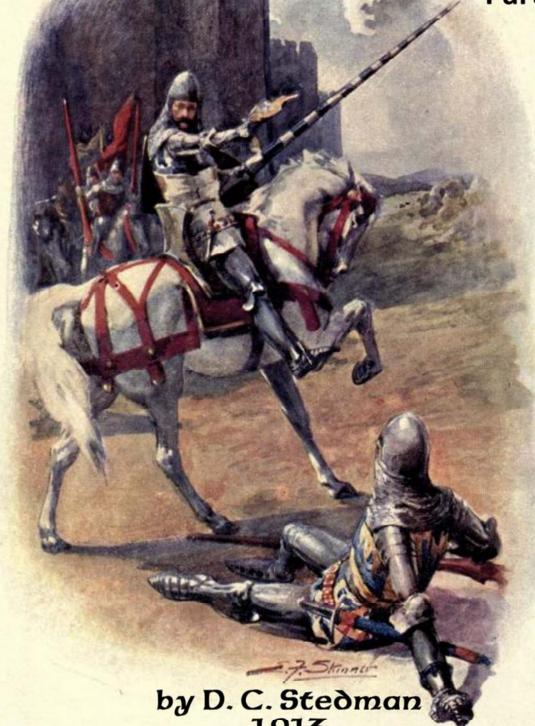
Fly into: PDX Portland International Airport

Transport via Uber, Lyft, Cab,or Rental Car.

In the area: McMenamin's Edgefield Resort is 4 minutes from the Holiday Inn for an alternate hotel (no A/C), spa treatments (Massage, facials, etc, - see "Ruby's Spa") with swimming pool and free wine, golf, pub and theater or outdoor grill restaurants, *The Black Rabbit Restaurant* for formal dining, wine tasting, gift shop or enjoy your favorite beer or wine as you walk the incredible gardens. Visit https://www.mcmenamins.com/edgefield

**Questions?** DouglasSecretary@comcast.net

Part 6



by D. C. Stedman 1913

https://archive.org/details/blackdouglases00stedrich

June 2022

#### CHAPTER XIII.

#### MARJORIE DOUGLAS.

"Come with bows bent and with emptying of quivers Maiden most perfect, lady of light, With a noise of winds and many rivers, With a clamour of waters and with might." A. C. SWINBURNE.

THE tremendous strength of Thrieve,\* the mighty island fortress of the Black Douglas, was increased by the marshy character of all the land around it, particularly towards Carlingwark and the east, where the power of King James lay. June passed in attempts of the most futile nature; the artillery brought to bear on the grim old keep did no more harm, as the great square freestones testify to this day, than so many boys' catapults might have done.+ And to win the castle by storm had proved as hopeless as it had looked, when, in the second or third week of July, James appeared in person to complete his campaign amid the applause of the

\* See Chapter VI.

† The daubs and splashes of the small gun-stones are plainly visible on the stones of the great gate to this day.

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Anguses, Mortons, and other traitor Douglases who hung around, waiting for their share of the spoil of the great senior house. The king made the abbey of Tongland his residence during the siege. He had spent the month of June at meetings of his Parliament and in sending accounts of the progress of the war to King Charles the Seventh of France.

James, ninth and last Earl of Douglas, had once again roused up the Lord of the Isles to make war on the king, and had then withdrawn himself to the safe side of the Border to try what aid he might hope for from England. Thrieve was garrisoned by the pick of the Douglas warriors, and fair Margaret herself was there, encouraging them in their stout resistance with a kindly word or smile of light. So it is small wonder that the besiegers made little progress, though the whirl and clamour of the siege rose hot and insolent about the great castle.

Hissing cannon-balls of stone crashed against the solid masonry of the great keep, stones slung from huge catapults rebounded with a clatter from its walls and splashed into the moat or went hissing past into the Dee, showers of shafts sang around it, but all these profited the king nothing whatsoever. Months after his gay banners, ensigns, and pennons had floated and flashed in the summer air from the ridge of Carlingwark, the great standard of the

overlord of Galloway, blue with its crowned white lion, and the famous flag of the great family itself, adorned with the three silver stars and the red heart of glorious memory, flapped defiance from battlemented Thrieve.

Even now all might be well for the Douglas. The castle could stand a siege of a year, or even two, and in Scotland, where such sudden and frequent changes in power took place, anything might happen in that time. Then, again, should the English civil war, the strife between the White Rose and the Red, come to an end, the King of England was prepared to aid Douglas if he would become his man. But in the heyday of their power the Douglases of the Black had borne it with a high hand, and though passionately loved by many of their followers, there were some who had death-feuds against them for deepest injuries.

King James stood one morning at the opening of his tent and stared across the meadows of Dee at the defiant tower of the Douglases, mirrored in the swift-flowing river. The siege had spread itself into a long line curving around the ridge of Carlingwark to Balmaghie on the north, and to the mains or farm lands of Kelton on the south, through which ran the old military road whereby the royal army had approached the fortress. The usual useless bombardment was taking place. Suddenly the answer came in a rattling fusil fire from the



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Douglas men behind the island wall, so fierce and deadly that James smote his thigh in rage, and George of Angus shouted to the gunners—those that were left—to draw back from the bank of the river.

As usual, the day's attack failed utterly, and ended only with severe loss to the king's troops. And that night King James sat alone in his tent with gloomy brow, musing, meditating as to whether or no he should attempt the desperate, well-nigh hopeless method of storming the castle.

Late he sat, very late. At the dead hour of night he heard the crossing of the steel partisans, a kind of axe-spear, of the sentries without. A man-at-arms appeared and stood at the salute. He brought the news that a man was without desiring speech with the king. James gave order that he should be admitted, and in another moment he stood in the entrance.

And such a man! Huge as a giant, with mighty girth, and shoulders so vast that James, who had risen in amazement, showed like a boy beside him, he stood there, known to all the countryside, old M'Kim, well called "the Brawny," for generations armourer-smith to the Douglases of Thrieve.

His cottage and smithy stood on the ridge above the lake of Carlingwark, and almost beneath the shade of three very old thorn trees, landmarks

for ages, the famous Three Thorns of Carling-wark.

James knew the armourer's abode well. It was,

indeed, fairly enclosed within his line of war.

Brawny M'Kim had a death-feud with James, Earl of Douglas, and he now offered, with the aid of his seven strong sons, to forge such a bombard as had never then been seen in battle before, if King James would provide enough iron

for the purpose.

The burghers of the town of Kirkcudbright found much iron, great balls of stone were quarried from the Bennan Hill, and in due time that monstrous cannon which now stands on the ramparts of Edinburgh Castle was fashioned. Brawny M'Kim named it Mollance Meg, from the estate of Mollance which had been granted to him, either by his masters, the Black Douglases, or by the king; and Meg, short for Barbara, his loudtongued wife.

The king's men dragged it to the summit of a hill now called the Byne of Camp Douglas, to the north of Thrieve. The first ball struck above a window slot, and made a terrible gash in the wall of the keep. The second discharge was as destructive as the first, and the garrison ran up a flag

of truce.

Margaret Douglas, the Fair Maid of Galloway, surrendered at last her strong castle and pretty

FRONT COVER

## Marjorie Douglas.

person to the king. She was sorry for "that ungodly and wicked marriage," and besought the king to free her from it. James was not without chivalry in his character: he pardoned the lovely girl, gave her the lordship of Balvany, which had belonged to John Douglas, her cousin, and married her to John Stewart, Earl of Athol, his own halfbrother. Fair Margaret had two daughters by this marriage, the eldest of whom was married to the Earl of Errol. So that we have some ground for hope that the "Maid of Galloway" found happiness at last. She was only twenty-eight years of age at the time of this her third marriage. And, like the fragrance of Maytime, the memory of Margaret Douglas lives yet, of her who was as fair, as frail, and as ill-fated as was Mary Stewart, Queen of Scots, herself.

James, ninth Earl of Douglas, was yet upon his feet, and still a foe to be feared.

In 1460 King James the Second laid siege to Roxburgh Castle, the only Scottish fortress then in English hands. As he stood by to mark the effect of a great cannon like that which had wrought such havoc at Thrieve, it burst, and the wedges flying out struck him down, and the Earl of Angus with him. The king died instantly, smitten swiftly and suddenly, even as he had himself, eight years before, struck down a far greater man.

After the rout of the Lancastrian party at the battle of Towton, King Edward the Fourth, head of the house of York, succeeded to the throne of England. The exiled Earl Douglas soon became a great favourite with him, and so remained, save for a few months, from April to July 1462, when there was talk of a marriage between King Edward and Marie de Gueldres, widow of James the Second. During this time the king ordered Earl Douglas to leave Carlisle, and we next hear of him "as a sorrowful and a sore-rebuked man lieth in the abbey of St. Albans, and by the said appointment (that is, the proposed marriage) shall not be reputed nor taken but as an Englishman, and if he come in the danger of Scots, they to slay him."\*

The proposed marriage never took place, for Bishop Kennedy was too staunch a Lancastrian, and by autumn Douglas was again in favour. He now advanced upon the Border to judge if it were in a state favourable for an English invasion. But John Douglas, his brother, was captured in Eskdale, and he himself had to retire over the Border with the king's men in full pursuit.

Nevertheless, he was so useful to King Edward when trouble arose with Scotland that, besides the annuity of £500 King Henry the Sixth had allowed him for having made nominal surrender of Thrieve to England, the Yorkist king made him many

<sup>\*</sup> Paston Letters II., page 111.

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valuable presents, and named him Keeper of Carrickfergus Castle in Ulster.

He was a great favourite at the English court, this gay reckless knight, Lord James, valiant as a lion in the front of battle, weak as water where a strong will was wanted, in whose person, and under whose rule, the greatest baronial house the world has ever seen came to utter wreck and ruin.

In 1461 or 1462 King Edward conferred on this last chief of the great race that most honourable of distinguished orders the Blue Garter of King Edward the Third. "He was made Knight of the noble Order of the Garter by King Edward the Fourth, and is placed first in order of all the earls, and next to him the Earl of Arundel (who is the first earl of England), in the book entitled 'Nobilitas Politica;' and the English heralds say of him that he was a very valiant, noble gentleman, well beloved of the king and nobility, and very useful to King Edward in all his troubles."\*

After this Earl James accompanied King Edward on his campaign against France. Douglas had a following of four men-at-arms and forty

archers provided by the English state.

Again, in 1484, the earl, now an old man, rode once more with the Duke of Albany to see if, by the spell of the ancient name, he could rally to his standard his former vassals. They chose

<sup>\*</sup> Hume of Godscroft.

the day of St. Magdalen, the day of the annual fair of Lochmaben, that sweet town girdled with its five gleaming lochs—" Marjory o' the mony lochs," as Robert Burns has called it. Douglas and Albany vowed that they would present their offering to St. Magdalen on the high altar of Lochmaben, that 24th of July.

They left a body of English foot, under a captain named Musgrave, at Burneswark Hill, to aid them in case of need. A place of ill omen, indeed, this hill Burneswark, for one of the Black Douglas name. It overlooks the water meadows of Esk and the fateful field of Arkinholm! Then Douglas and Albany rode into Lochmaben

town.

But the crowd only stared at the English, for nigh thirty years had passed since the breaking of the Douglas power. And worse—the alarm had been given, "the fray was raised" through Galloway, Liddesdale, and Annandale—the warden was nigh at the head of the Border levies. The English foot on Burneswark fled at once, but from noon till twilight the cavalry under the earls kept the field, laying on manfully. At last the Scots proved victorious. Albany escaped, but the old Earl Douglas was struck from his horse. There was a hundred merk land offered for his head; among the fierce faces around, one at least he knew, that of Alexander Kirkpatrick, son of the Laird of

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Closeburn, a man who had been his own servant in better days.

James called to him.

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"Kirkpatrick," he said, "I have fought long enough against my fortune; and since I must die, I would rather that thou—who hast been mine own servant, and whom I knew to be faithful to me as long as I did anything that was likely for myself-should have the benefit thereby than any other. Wherefore take me and deliver me to the king according to his proclamation.

"But see thou art sure he keeps his word before thou deliver me," added James, with remembrances, no doubt, of Stewarts of past days.

But in his heart young Kirkpatrick loved his former chief, and, weeping to see the downfall of a man once so great, offered to go with him into England. James refused, for he was weary of such endless troubles; only, let Kirkpatrick ask the king to spare his life, and at least make sure of his own reward.

The young man brought his former lord to a humble cottage and kept him there some few days. Then the king granted his life and bestowed on Kirkpatrick the lands of Kirkmichael.

When James Douglas was brought into the king's presence, he was sentenced to a life of retirement in the abbey of Lindores. His comment

is characteristic of the man.

"He that may no better be must be a monk,"

quoth James Douglas.

June 2022

He never left Lindores Abbey. Yet twice again was he given the chance of making a bold bid for the good things of this world. When once more the country was plunged into dreary civil war, a weaker Stewart, this very James the Third, finding his masters in the Red Douglases, sought out this last of the once great Black house, and begged him to be his lieutenant against the rebels.

"Sir," answered Douglas, "you have kept me and your black coffer in Stirling too long; neither of us can do you any good. I, because my friends have forsaken me, and my followers and dependants are fallen from me, betake themselves to other masters; and your black trunk \* is far from you, and your enemies are between you and it - which moneys, sir, if you had put out at the first, the people would have taken it; and if you had employed me in due time, I might have done you service. But now there is none that will take notice of me, nor meddle with your money."

And to the nobles who, under Archibald Bellthe-Cat, fifth Earl of Angus, sent to him, "a shorn monk in Lindores Abbey," desiring him "to cast off his cowl and come out of his cell, and join with them to suppress so wicked and insolent a king,

<sup>\*</sup> Containing his treasure.

FRONT COVER

# Marjorie Douglas.

and they would again restore him to all his former dignities and revenues," he replied urging them "to peace and concord; but on no terms would (he)

any more try his own hard fortune."

Those fortunes of the great house, their vast estates, were distributed by the Stewarts among the lesser families which had aided in the overthrow of the Black Douglas. George Douglas, fourth Earl of Angus, of course, received the lion's share, the original lands of his forefathers in Douglasdale. Scotts, Johnstones, Maxwells, all grew great on the spoil of the mighty enemy.

The chequered career and stormy life of James, ninth Earl of Douglas, came to a close in 1488 in Lindores Abbey. With him died the grand old title Earl of Douglas, and it has never since been revived. Earl James was the first Scots Knight of the Garter, and his stall plate is still in existence.

But the line of Douglas, carried adown the tide of ages by the Douglases of Angus, of Dalkeith, of Cavers, Drumlanrig, and Queensberry, is with us still. His Grace Lord Alfred Douglas-Hamilton, thirteenth Duke of Hamilton, Marquess of Douglas, is the heir-male; and in the female line, Lord Charles Alexander Douglas-Home, twelfth Earl of Home, Baron Douglas of Douglas, and Lord of Douglasdale.

Not alone in Scotland, their home, but abroad in Italy, where they are represented by the Scoti of

June 2022

# The Black Douglases.

Piacenza; in Sweden, where there is—or at any rate was in 1789—a branch of the Douglases of Whittinghame, brave soldiers, one of whom was taken prisoner at Pultava in 1709, fighting gallantly for the cause of Charles the Twelfth, King of Sweden; and in countless other realms and regions of the earth have sons of this lofty race done honour to their native land.

In warfare and in statecraft no house has furnished so many individual great men as this more than kingly race.

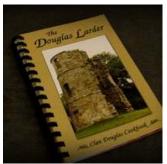


#### The End

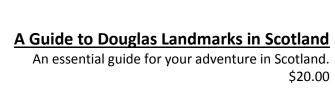
If you have enjoyed this book and would like to see more reprints of out of print books in the future, email the Editor and let him know.

If you have a particular book in mind, pass the idea along.

#### **CDSNA Store merchandise:**



The Douglas Larder Cookbook A cookbook featuring Douglas family recipes. \$10.00







**Clan Douglas Cap Badge** \$22.00



**Clan Douglas Kilt Pin** 



**Women's Golf Shirt** A light blue golf polo featuring two embroidered thistles. \$28.00



**Men's Golf Shirt** This golf polo features an Embroidered Clan Douglas shield. \$26.00



**Clan Douglas T-Shirt** This blue t-shirt features 'Clan Douglas' on the front and the Belted Heart of Bruce on the back. \$20.00



Shipping charges can be found on the Store Goods Order Form Contact the Storekeepers, if you have any questions.

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Phone: Email:

#### CDSNA STORE GOODS ORDER FORM

Make all checks payable to: Clan Douglas Society Send Order Form to: Joseph Blaylock 8616 Elk Way Elk Grove, CA 95624

phone: (916) 209-8316 email: jcblaylock@yahoo.com

Description of Item	Quantity	Total
\$7 - Lapel Pin - Belted Heart of Bruce	5	\$
\$10 - Cookbook - The Douglas Larder		\$
\$20 - A Guide to Douglas Landmarks		\$
\$22 - Cap Badge - Heart of Bruce Pewter (CDSNA Exclusive design)		\$
\$22 - Kilt Pin - Sword-Heart of Bruce Pewter (CDSNA Exclusive design)		\$
OTHER – Please List		\$
OTHER - Please List	KS .	\$
\$20 - Women's Winged Heart T-Shirts - Adult S-2X - BLACK Only S: # shirts	Total # of WH T-shirts	\$
\$20 - T-Shirts - Adult S-3X - Blue Only Clan Douglas Front - Belted Heart of Bruce Back  S: # shirts	Total # of T-shirts	\$
\$28 - Women's Embroidered Thistle Golf Shirts - Adult S-2X - LIGHT BLUE Only  S: # shirts	Total # of Women's GS	\$
\$26 - Men's Golf Shirts - Adult - S-3X	Total # of Men's GS	\$
Shipping Charge: All Prices in US Dollars	Order Sub-Total:	\$
\$0 - \$9.99 = \$4.00 \$30 - \$39.99 = \$7.25 \$60 - \$69.99 = \$11.25 \$10 - \$19.99 = \$5.25 \$40 - \$49.99 = \$8.75 \$70 - \$79.99 = \$12.50 \$20 - \$29.99 = \$6.50 \$50 - \$59.99 = \$10.00 \$80 - \$89.99 = \$13.75	Shipping Charge:	\$
\$1.25 for each additional \$10 increment  For orders outside the USA, please contact Storekeeper for final cost plus shipping.	ORDER TOTAL:	\$
Ship Order to:		
Name:		
Address:		
City, State, Zip:		

Order Form 20190331

Visit our Clan Website for other store goods: http://clandouglassociety.org/cdsna-store/

□ NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION □ RENEWING MEMBERSHIP FORM ↑ Check one above DATE://	Clan Douglas Society of Nonth America		
TYPES OF MEMBERSHIPS & DUES: (MAKE A SELECTION)			
ONE YEAR: \$20 THREE YEARS: \$55			
LIFE, If UNDER 60 years old: □ \$300 → LIFE, INSTALLMENT: □\$75	70.7		
LIFE, If OVER 60 years old: □ \$200 → LIFE, INSTALLMENT: □ \$50			
LIFE, IT OVER 60 years old: \$200 > LIFE, INSTALLMENT: \$50  LIFE MEMBERSHIP MAY BE PAID IN FOUR EQUAL INSTALLMENTS			
Dues are payable in US currency or equivalent currency of applicant's home country at the exchange rate at time of payment.  PLEASE INDICATE PAYMENT TYPE: PAYPAL CHECK CASH OTHER,  *Pay via PAYPAL: <a href="http://clandouglassociety.org/join-cdsna/">http://clandouglassociety.org/join-cdsna/</a> **If paying by check, make payable to CLAN DOUGLAS SOCIETY			
*REQUIRED CONTACT INFORMATION FOR NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS (Please Print)			
*NAME:	,		
* EMAIL:	*PHONE:		
The CDSNA <i>Dabb Gblase</i> Newsletter is digital only & will be email	led to your email address of record.		
Do you possess any skills (Web Design, IT, Leadership, etc.) or have an interest willing to share with CDSNA? Please list.	in any activity or service you would be		
↓ ↓FOR NEW APPLICANTS ONLY (please print) ↓ ↓			
Family or Sept Affiliation:			
Spouse's/Partner's Name:			
Children under 18:			
ADDRESS:			
CITY:	ZIP:		
- Attn Regent: Scan & Email completed form to:  Carol Morton-Bianchini, Secretary PO Box 6974 Portland, OR 97228	REGENT receiving Application:		
(Call/Text) 971.300.8593(Email) DouglasSecret	tary@comcast.net		

MEM APP FORM 20220123

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# To pay your CDSNA Membership Dues via our CDSNA PayPal account...

go to <a href="http://clandouglassociety.org/join-cdsna/">http://clandouglassociety.org/join-cdsna/</a>

[1] Click on the



button to connect to the PayPal form.

[2] Once on the PayPal form, enter the AMOUNT of your Membership option selection:

\$20 - [1-YR] (one year)

\$55 - [3-YR] (three year)

[Note: LIFE memberships may be paid in one lump sum or in 4 equal payments]

\$300 – [LIFE-59] (age 59 & younger)

\$75 – [LIFE-59/I] (installment)

\$200 – [LIFE-60] (age 60 & older)

\$50 – LIFE-60/I (installment)



- [3] On the next page, click on "Please list what your donation is for:" and indicate either: 1-YR; 3-YR; LIFE-59; (LIFE-59/I); LIFE-60; or (LIFE-60/I)
- [4] To ensure you receive your digital copy of the quarterly Clan Douglas newsletter, *Dubh Ghlase*, you need to include your email address in the CONTACT INFORMATION.
- [5] Once you have completed the Membership Donation, send an email to the Clan Douglas Secretary to inform that you have paid via the CDSNA website and ask for the Secretary to email you a verification at the earliest convenience.

Email: DouglasSecretary@comcast.net

# CLAN DOUGLAS SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA, LTD.

Visit our Website: <a href="http://www.clandouglassociety.org">http://www.clandouglassociety.org</a>

National Office - CDSNA PO Box 6974 Portland, OR 97228

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED:

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# Please make sure your current email address is on file with our Clan Secretary to continue receiving the newsletter

DouglasSecretary@comcast.net

#### The List of Septs & Allied Families recognized by The Clan Douglas Society of North America:

Agnew, Bell, Blackadder, Blackett, Blacklock, Blackstock, Blackwood, Blaylock, Breckinridge, Brown, Brownlee, Caddie/Cadie, Caddy/Cady Cadden/Caddin, Caggie/Caggy, Carmichael, Carruthers, Cauldlaw, Coldlaw, Cavan, Cavers, Cleland, Clendenon, Crockett, Dalyell, Dalzell, Deal, Dick, Dickey, Dickson, Dixon, Drysdale, Forest, Forrester, Foster, Galbraith, Gilpatric, Gladstain, Gladstanes, Gladstone, Glendenning, Glenn, Hamilton, Harkness, Home, Hume, Inglis, Kirkconnell, Kilgore, Kirkland, Kilpatrick, Kirkpatrick, Lockerby, Lockery, Lockhart, MacGuffey, MacGuffock, Maxwell, McKittrick, Moffat, Morton, Pringle, Rowell, Rowle, Rule, Rutherford, Sandilands, Sandlin, Simms, Soule, Sterrett, Syme, Symington, Troup, Turnbull, Weir, Young, Younger --- variations of these names are also recognized.

#### Dabh Ghlase Newsletter

Is published four times annually:

March, June, September, & December

**Submission Dates** 

Newsletter submissions are accepted until the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month <u>preceding</u> the publication month.

[Example: September 2022 submissions must be received by August 15, 2022]

Items received after the Submission Date may be saved for the next newsletter.

Please send your articles for submission to

#### clan.douglas@yahoo.com

or contact your Regional Asst VP or the CDSNA Vice President.

Anyone is welcome to submit articles, games reports, and general information.

We do request that any article submitted be related to CDSNA or of general Celtic interest.

Newsletter Editor will make all final decisions as to the content of the Newsletter & design of the FRONT COVER.



CLAN DOUGLAS SOCIETY OF NORTH
AMERICA

Founded 1975



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