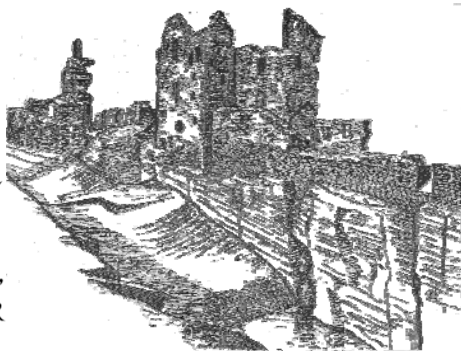


Yours Aye

THE RIGHT HONORABLE MALCOLM SINCLAIR, EARL OF CAITHNESS,
HEREDITARY CHIEF OF THE CLAN SINCLAIR



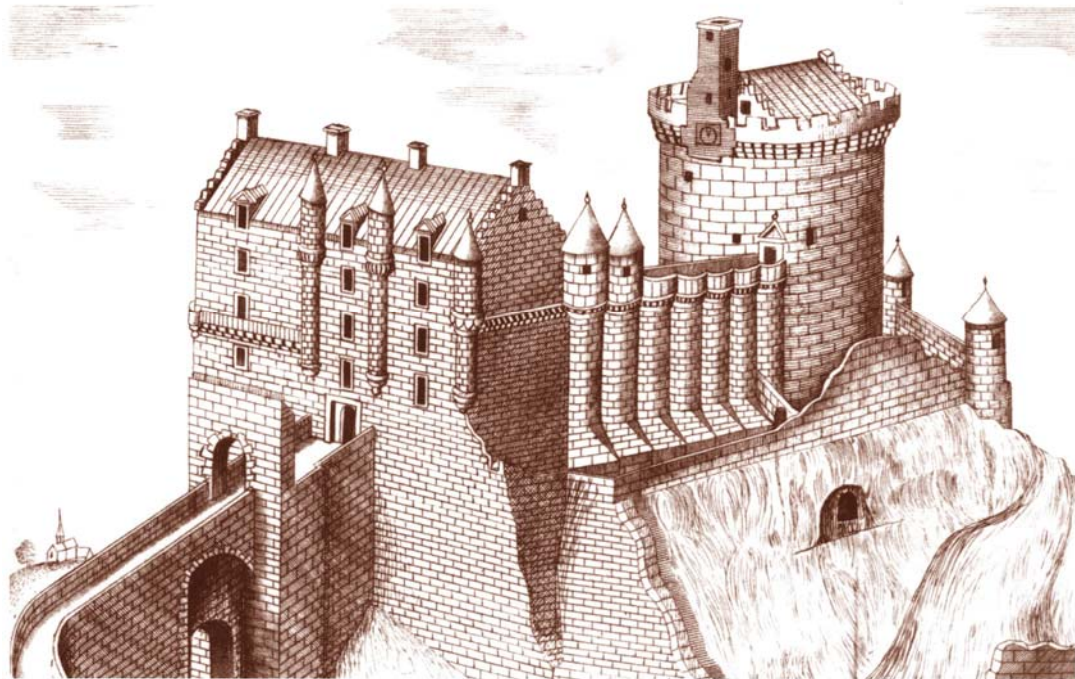
Clan Sinclair Association, Inc. (USA)

January-March 2010

ROSSLYN CASTLE

Rosslyn Castle, ante 1700, engraving by John Gellatly

This July marks the ten year anniversary of the first international Clan Sinclair Gathering in Scotland. One of it's highlights was a visit to Rosslyn Castle hosted by Peter and Helen Rosslyn and their children. Gathering attendees were given free reign to explore the castle and its grounds. The hosts furnished each attendee with a set of notes to guide them on their tour and to explain a little of the castle's rich and colorful history. Now ten years later, these notes are published here for those interested in the castle and its colorful history....the editor



Rosslyn Castle stands on a rocky promontory surrounded on three sides by the famous river, North Esk. It is approached by a road beside what was originally a deep ravine, once spanned by a drawbridge; through it lay a road to the south, crossing the river by a bridge, and this road was used by people going to the castles of Hawthornden, Dalkeith, Borthwick and the Monasteries of Newbattle, Temple and Mount Lothian. The middle arch of this bridge was destroyed around A.D. 1700 and the bridge no longer exists, although the abutment of the north side of it is still visible. The existing bridge giving access to the castle is 50 feet high.

On passing under the archway through which Kings and Queens and heroes have entered the castle, the ruins of the earliest part of the building can be seen-the tower at the north-east corner. It was called the 'lantern,' or 'lamp tower' and was probably built about 1304, shortly after the Battle of Roslin 1302. At the bottom of the wall adjoining it, there are the remains of a stair of nine steps cut in the face of the rock, which probably once led to a terrace above.

The dungeon or 'keep' on the south-west corner was built about 1390. Father Hay says that Sir Henry, the second Prince of Orkney, 'buildd the great dungeon of Rosslyn and other walls thereabout, together with parks for red and fallow deer.' The keep was five stories high and 50 feet long.

The founder of the Chapel, Sir William St Clair, who succeeded to the estate about 1471, enlarged and strengthened the castle considerably, and employed a great number of workmen to do so. "He buildd the church walls of Rosline, having rounds (buttresses) with fair chambers and galleries thereon; he buildd also the forework that looks north-east; he buildd the bridge under the castle and a fruit orchard, and sundry office-houses.' Nothing now remains of the church walls, the galleries and fair chambers, or the 'office houses,' all of which would have been needed to accommodate the numerous dependents with whom the Prince was surrounded. Many French features were introduced in the additions to the castle, especially in the galleries and projecting chambers and turrets, probably as a result of Sir William and his princess spending a lot of time in France. One of the most interesting features is that the west wall of enceinte with buttresses or 'rounds' is unique, in that there is only one other like it, the 12th century Chateau Guillard on the River Seine which was built by Richard I. It is also interesting to see the oyster shells in the mortar used in building the walls; oysters were plentiful and cheap in

(Continued on page 6)

**Clan Sinclair Association, Inc.
United States of America**

Founded in 1978, Clan Sinclair Association, Inc. (U.S.A.) is a non profit organization whose membership consists of descendants and friends of the Scottish clan (family) of Sinclair (all various spellings included). Its purpose is to promote and perpetuate family tradition within the context of Scottish history and culture. Membership is open to persons with the surnames of Sinclair (St. Clair) and any of its adherent families, descendants of Sinclairs and friends of the clan. A membership form is included in this newsletter.

Yours Aye, the official newsletter of the Clan Sinclair Association, Inc. USA. is published four times a year. The newsletter is mailed free to members as one of several benefits of membership.

Contribution of articles or other information of interest to the membership, including photographs, announcements and notices of birth, marriages or death, are welcome and encouraged. To facilitate timely publication and delivery of the newsletter, members are requested to submit material for publication no later than March 15 for the Jan-Mar issue, June 15 for the April-June issue, September 15 for the July-Sept issue and December 15 for the Oct-Dec issue. Contributions to the newsletter should be mailed to Ward L. Ginn, Jr., Editor, 12147 Holly Knoll Circle, Great Falls, VA 22066 or email to: wginn@cox.net.

Change of Address: Please inform the Membership Secretary promptly when your address changes. Correspondence should be addressed to Clan Sinclair Association (USA), 12147 Holly Knoll Circle, Great Falls, VA 22066 or email: aginn@cox.net.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CLAN CHIEF...

March 2010

Dear all

It has been the longest and coldest winter since 1962 and much more like the winters I remember as a child in Aberdeenshire. As a result

the spring flowers are later than usual this year but perhaps lovelier as a result. The daffodils are just bursting out whereas this time last they were blooming well. It is such a lovely time of the year as the days begin to draw out and there is a bit of warmth in the sun. There is still little growth in the grass so the later lambing which most farmers have moved back to is proving a wise move. While we were bemoaning the snow and ice Vancouver was suffering from the lack of it but still laid on an excellent Olympics and a wonderful spectacle. Well done Canada!

Final plans are being put into place for the Gathering and we are looking forward to seeing a good contingent from North America. Come prepared to sing and dance as well as enjoy the schedule we have planned for you. As usual, it has been a quiet time so far as the castle is concerned, but earlier this month some of the pupils at Hillhead School in Wick used Noss Head for a project they were doing and it was great to see the young begin to appreciate and understand a bit of their history. I have also been able to study some of the papers in the National Archives and again they prove that so much of our history is incorrect. We will visit the site of the Battle of Altinarnach but with a new perspective on it.

At the end of May I have been asked to be the Chief of the Greenville Scottish Games in South Carolina at which H.R.H. The Prince Edward, The Earl of Wessex will be the Distinguished Guest. It will be quite an occasion as it is the first time a Senior Member of the Royal Family has been to an overseas Scottish Games. Mel, your President, is on the board and is responsible for the organising a large part of it. He has worked extra hard this year.

Looking forward to seeing some of you soon.

Malcolm



THE GREAT AND MAGNIFICENT YEW TREE AT ROSSLYN CASTLE

by Ward Ginn

A trip to Rosslyn Chapel and Castle is not complete without a visit to the grand old yew tree. It is located at the extreme south end of the castle and can be reached by footpaths running under the north bridge span and then proceeding southward along the base of the castle to its far end.

I first learned about the tree reading Frederick J. Pohl's book *Prince Henry Sinclair* in which he takes some literary license by stating that the prince as a boy could see through windows at one end of the hall '...the branches of a dark green yew tree against the sky.' Pohl goes on to say that this yew tree is a "mighty giant" seven hundred years old. I cannot dispute Pohl's claim as to the tree's age as I have seen this tree, and by my observation, it's diameter and height is several times those I have seen in American cemeteries which are thought to date back to the revolution. As it is reputed to be quite old, tradition has it that wood from Rosslyn's yew tree was used in ancient times to make archers' bows.

While a leisurely walk along the pathway at the base of the castle provides an awesome view of the modern part of the castle standing over the north-east end of the vaults, readers are cautioned that the pathways are uneven and can be quite slippery and dangerous. The yew tree is worth a visit, but not at the expense of breaking a leg!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April 16, 2010

Greetings!

The weather is warming and the Games are in full swing as we welcome another year of fellowship and gathering with like minded people. As I mentioned in the previous issue of the Yours Aye, we will be having our Clan

Sinclair Association (USA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Greenville, SC, at the Greenville Games. Our Chief, the **Rt Honorable The Earl of Caithness, Malcolm Sinclair**, will be the honored guest. Please plan to attend and support our Chief. **Rory Sinclair**, President of Clan Sinclair Canada, our friend from the north, will join us once again. Thanks, Rory, for your support.

Mark your calendar for Memorial Day weekend, May 28-29. The Greenville Games official activities will begin on Friday evening, May 28 with a high-energy downtown parade beginning at 6:00pm. Clan Sinclair will be the lead clan in the parade. After the parade you may want to attend the "Gathering of the Clans" Reception at the Hilton Hotel, the Games host hotel. See the next paragraph for information regarding tickets to the "Gathering of the Clans" Reception. Saturday's Games, May 29, will be at Furman University. We will have a special guest on the stage for opening ceremonies, none other than **HRH Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex**, the youngest son of the Queen. This will be the first time a Royal has attended a Scottish Games outside of Scotland.

A number of cousins have already made reservations. What is particularly special for Clan Sinclair will be the clan dinner on Saturday evening at the Hilton Hotel beginning with a cash bar at 6:30 and dinner at 7:30. The cost is \$46.50 per person with a price of \$17.00 for children 12 and under. The dinner will be buffet style and include the main course selections of breaded chicken breast stuffed with ham and Swiss cheese and grilled Atlantic salmon with lemon dill sauce (why not have both!). The Hilton Hotel is the official host hotel for the Games and they are offering special room rates for Clan members. The room reservation number is 1-864-232-4747 or you can go online to make hotel reservations at Hilton Greenville. I have the link for online reservations on my family website at: <http://www.clansinclairsc.org>. Click on the link near the top of the page to go to the AGM page. I also have a "Patron Form" on my website that can be downloaded and used to purchase tickets for the "Gathering of the Clans" Reception on Friday evening. For those who do not have access to the internet and are interested in attending, please contact **Sindy Barker**, Clan Sinclair Association Secretary/Treasurer. She can be reached by phone at 919-542-2795, e-mail at Sindybarker@aol.com or by mail at 209 The

Glades, Chapel Hill, NC 27517. Invitations will be sent via e-mail or snail mail for those who do not have a listed e-mail address. If you have an e-mail address and do not receive an e-mail from me, you may need to update your e-mail address in our data base.

The Western Region's increased Games activities have allowed us to create a new position for the Northwestern area. **Fred Inkster is appointed Northwestern Area Commissioner** for Clan Sinclair Association (USA). Fred will still report to Donald M. Sinclair, Western Region Vice President, but will coordinate activities in the states of Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah and Washington. Congratulations, Fred, and keep up the good work (see Fred's bio and photo in this issue).

A special thanks to **Sindy Barker, AJ Ginn, Brenda Mason, and Mary Selver** as they transition to their new duties. Brenda Mason, Clan Store Manager, has some great ideas for the Clan Store. Over the coming months there will be new items. Your comments should be sent directly to Brenda (see separate article in this issue).

As of this writing, there were still a few seats available for the 2010 Gathering. This promises to be a wonderful time for our cousins to gather. Please remember to encourage other relatives to become a part of our most noble family association by joining Clan Sinclair Association (USA). As always, it is good to be of service to our association. I hope to see many of you this year and don't forget, you can always reach me by phone (864-268-3550), fax (864-322-5646), or e-mail (Mel@ClanSinclairSC.org). Please stay in touch and let me know anything that I can do to assist you and to help make our Clan Association the best it can be.

Best aye,
Mel

CLAN SINCLAIR USA SPONSORS January-March 2010

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R. Bruce Hammatt, Jr.
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Thomas H. Robinson
James Walter Sinclair
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**Thank You
For Your
Support**

Dr. Ryan Sinclair Works to Make World's Fresh Water Supply Safe

Clan Sinclair member Nancy Sinclair is justly proud of her son, Dr. Ryan Sinclair who is a fresh water expert and researcher for Loma Linda University (LLU) in Loma Linda, California. Dr. Sinclair and a team of public health students from LLU visited Haiti for a two week stay following the devastating earthquake there in January. Pictured second from the left in the accompanying photo is Dr. Sinclair along with some of the graduate students he is mentoring at LLU.

LLU is a Seventh Day Adventist institution, and the only hospital left standing and undamaged in the earthquake area was a SDA hospital. Many students and faculty from the LLU medical school went to Haiti to augment the hospital's outreach services to the devastated community. Sinclair and his team's mission was to assess the supply of fresh water and to ensure its safety.

Ryan Sinclair has a Ph.D. in fresh water engineering and a Masters of Public Health degree in International Public Health. He was instrumental in building a few years ago a water research lab at the University of Arizona (UA). Recently he obtained a grant from UA to study type A pathogens in fresh water for the Department of



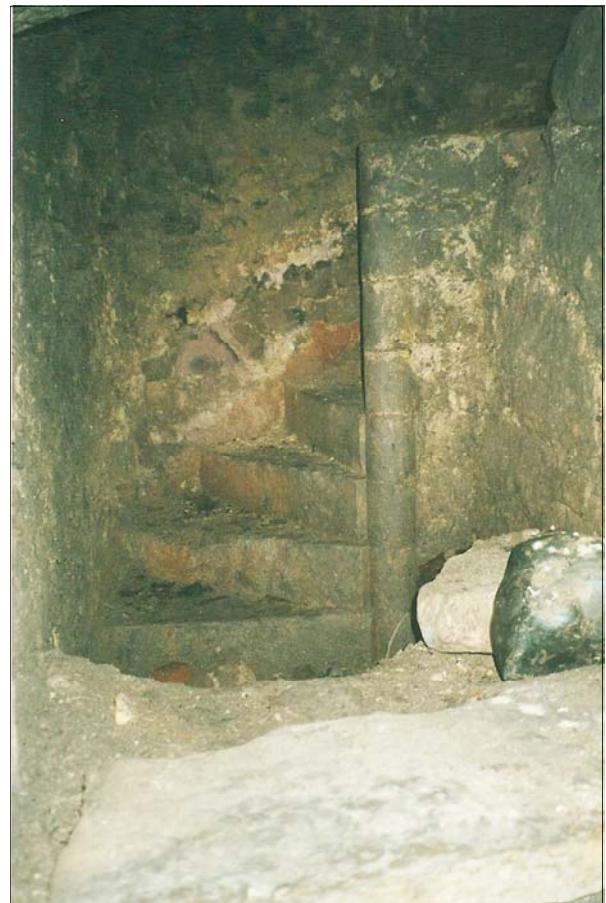
Homeland Security and EPA in their assessment of possible terrorism attempts to both the fresh water supply and sewer systems in this country. He has done much work in Ethiopia and Cambodia over the years and studied health situations in India. He also developed a solar water sterilization program in the jungle of Cambodia, reducing significantly the incidence of infant and childhood diarrhea and death. Presently, Dr. Sinclair's expertise is being sought by the UA to study waste disposal in the Amazon.

STAIRWAY TO TREASURE OR NOT?

The story of a ghost guarding buried treasure in the vaults of Rosslyn Castle is legendary. The story was first mentioned by Slezer in his "Theatrum Scotiae" (1693) where he stated, "A great treasure, we are told, amounting to some millions, lies buried in one of the vaults. It is under the guardianship of a lady of the ancient house of Sr. Clair, who, not very faithful to her trust, has been in a dormant state. Awakened, however, by the sound of a trumpet, which must be heard in one of the lower apartments, she is to make her appearance and to point out where the treasure lies."

In the summer of 2000, I was one of about 200 clansmen who visited Rosslyn Castle during the clan's first international gathering. We were given free reign to visit any part of the castle we desired, including its vaults. As I explored the dark, damp, and close quarters of the vaults' first level, I noticed in a small, cramped compartment a stairway which abruptly ended, seemingly blocked at ceiling level with debris and backfill. I took a photo of the stairway (see photo), wondering where it led. In my imagination, I fleetingly conjured up the vision of the stairway leading to a vault filed with a king's ransom of gold, silver and jewels.

But I was to learn only recently from the Earl of Rosslyn that this stairway leads from the first level basement and emerges to the south of the existing door to the castle. It was discovered in the 1990s when a small hole to the south of the front door became enlarged due to erosion which, in turn, caused a sudden and significant earth fall that revealed the staircase itself. The cavity was excavated and then filed in at the courtyard level. This is the truth of the matter, and sorry - no treasure or ghost to end this story. ... the editor



(Continued from page 1)

those days. James I bought 45,100 in 1434 for £8 10 1d. (*Exchequer Rolls, IV, 618*)

There are ruins on the steep bank below the great 'Dungeon' to the north-west, and part of an arched roof can be seen in two places. The outworks are probably the remains of two towers-'Robin Hood' and 'Little John'- which Sir William St Clair allowed gypsies to live in about 1559, when they came to act their plays in the neighbourhood.

In this massive, strange and picturesque castle upon which so much time, skill and money was spent, Sir Henry and son, and his grandson Sir William appear to have lived in almost regal magnificence. Of Sir William, the third Prince and founder of the Chapel, it is recorded that 'in his house, he was royally served in gold and silver vessels, in the most princely manner, for the Lord Dirltone was Master of his household, Lord Borthwick his cup-bearer, and Lord Fleming his carver' and there were noble deputies to take their places when they were absent-the Lairds of Drumelzier, Calder, and Drumlanrig. 'He had his halls and chambers richly hung with embroidered hangings. His princess, Lady Elizabeth Douglas, was held in great reverence, both for her birth and for the high estate she was in, being served by seventy-five gentlewomen of whom fifty-three were the daughters of noblemen, and all of them attired in silk and velvet adorned with chains of gold and other jewels. When travelling from Rosslyn to the family mansion in Edinburgh-at the foot of Blackfriars Wynd- she was attended by two hundred gentlemen on horseback and, if after nightfall, by eighty other persons bearing torches. Indeed, none matched her in the country save the Queen's majesty.' (Hay, Vol.II, p.234) It is further recorded that in the courtyard were six recesses in which stood the guard horses, saddled and bridled and ready to convey messages to and from the King.

In the course of history, it often happens that the status and wealth of a family can rise and decline, and this happened to the St Clairs:

No more in Rosslyn's stately halls
The joyous feast is spread,
Mute rests the harp on Rosslyn's walls,
Its strings are damp and dead.

The spritely dance of prowest chiefs,
And tissued dames is o'er,
Yea, all the pomp of feudal times,
In Rosslyn is no more.

Gillespie.

It all began with a mysterious warning and fire: 'About this time (1447) a year after the founding of the Chapel, Edward Saintclar of Draidon, coming with four greyhounds and some ratches (slow hounds to start game) to hunt with the prince, met a company of rats, and among them an old blind one with a straw in its mouth, led by the rest, whereat he greatly marvelled, not thinking what should follow: but within four days after, to wit, upon the feast of St Leonard (November 6, 1447), the princess, who took great delight in little dogs, caused one of the gentlewomen to go under the bed with a lighted candle to bring forth one of them that had young yelps,

which she was doing, and not being very attentive, set fire to the bed, whereat the fire rose and burnt the bed, and then passed to the ceiling of the great chamber in which the princess was, whereat she with all that were within the dungeon were compelled to fly. The princess's chaplain, seeing this and remembering all his master's writings, passed to the head of the dungeon where they were, and threw out four great trunks. The news of the fire coming to the prince's ears, through the lamentable cries of the ladies and gentlewomen and the sight thereof coming to his view in the place where he stood to wit upon the College Hill, he was sorry for nothing but the loss of his charters and other rights. But when the chaplain who had saved himself by coming down the bellrope tied to a beam, declared how his charters and writs were all saved, he became cheerful and went to re-comfort his princess and the ladies, desiring them to put away all sorrow, and rewarding his chaplain very richly, yet all this stayed him not from the building of the College, neither his liberality to the poor, but was more liberal to them than before, applying the safety of his charters and writings to God's particular providence.' (Father Hay) The damage done by the fire was repaired, and eight years later (1455) there are records of a prisoner being confined in the castle- Sir William Hamilton of Cadyou, for joining in the rebellion of James, Earl of Douglas, against James II. There is no doubt that many other prisoners were confined in these dungeons over the period of time.

The castle was attacked and set on fire again in 1544 when Henry VIII was having difficulties with Scotland over the proposed marriage, 'the rough wooing,' as it was called, between the Prince of Wales (Edward VI) and Mary, the child Queen of Scots, his great niece. The Earl of Hertford invaded Scotland, obeying Henry's instructions 'to put to fire and sword.' He landed at Granton, and before attacking and burning Rosslyn, he set fire to Edinburgh, Leith and Craigmillar Castle. Edinburgh burned for three days and nights and the glow was seen all along the Fife and Lothian coasts, impressing upon the Scots what it meant to be at the mercy of the King of England. Later Jedburgh was burned, and Melrose destroyed, and Hertford, by then Duke of Somerset, destroyed the Abbey of Holyrood as well. Fortunately during this holocaust the Chapel was spared and meanwhile Rosslyn Castle was once again rebuilt.

In 1580, Sir Edward St Clair gave his estate to successor, Sir William St Clair of Pentland. Sir William built the vaults and the great turnpike of Rosslyn (the large stone staircase 4 feet wide, leading up from the basement through various storeys of the castle). In addition, he built one of the arches of the drawbridge and a fine house near the mill, neither of which now exist. Other work carried out by him was the construction of the tower of the dungeon, where the clock was kept, with the date 1586, and also the great hall adjoining the clock tower.

Because of rising expenses, the rebuilding of the castle with the numerous extensions, the losses incurred through loyal attachment to the Royal cause forced Sir William to sell part of his estates-Herbertshire in Stirlingshire, Morton, and Morton Hall. His son, also called Sir William, was as a result of this able to continue his father's work and finished building over the vaults up to the level of the courtyard; his initials can be seen over the door at the present entrance to the castle, 'S.W.S. (Sir William St Clair) 1622.' Particular notice should

be taken of the dining room ceiling; it is made of fine ornamental plaster, divided into nine panels, and richly decorated with hunting and hawking scenes and floral clusters. The district was a popular one for royal sports, and Scottish kings often hunted on the surrounding hills and moors; Pentland itself being a hunting centre. A former Sir William, Baron of Rosslyn, Pentland and Pentland Moor, was Grand Master Hunter of Scotland; he was knighted by Alexander II for his military services, he fought under Alexander III against Haakon, King of Norway, in the battle of Largs, 1263, and he died about 1300. His son, another Sir William took part at the Battle of Bannockburn in Scotland's War of Independence. The central panel of the ceiling has three St Clair arms-the engrailed cross, supporters; dexter a mermaid with comb in one hand, and a bunch of seaweed in the other, sinister a griffin, a crest and a dove. Motto 'Credo' 1622. This was the Sir William who was buried in the Chapel on the day of the Battle of Dunbar on September 3, 1650, the last Knight to be buried in his armour.

Sir William's son, Sir John, tried unsuccessfully to resist the attack on the castle by Cromwell's troops under General Monk in 1650, but he was captured and sent as a prisoner to Tynemouth Castle, only returning to Rosslyn just before his death in 1690. Sadly, rare literary and historical treasures were destroyed and the only part of the building that escaped the barrage of four pieces of ordnance, a mortar piece and the assault of 600 troopers, is the part still standing today; the north-east and west sides were battered down, and the castle sacked. This happened yet again during the life of Sir James St. Clair, Father Hay's stepfather, for, at 10 o'clock at night on December 11, 1688, a mob from Edinburgh accompanied by some of Sir James' tenants, and some of the villagers of Roslin, entered and damaged the Chapel; their object was to destroy the furniture and vestments, which were regarded as popish and idolatrous, for this was the time after William of Orange landed in England, and prior to the final establishment of Presbyterianism in Scotland. Lord Byron wrote:

Oh, Roslin! Time, war, flood and fire
Have made your glories star by star expire,
Chaos of ruins! Who shall trace the void,
O'er the dim fragments, cast a lunar light,
And say 'Here was or is' where all is doubly
night.

Alas! Thy lofty castle! And Alas!
Thy trebly hundred triumphs! And the day
When Sinclair made the dagger's edge surpass
The conqueror's sword in bearing fame away.

A hundred years later (1788), Grose described the castle as 'haggard and utterly dilapidated-a mere wreck of a great pile riding on a little sea of forest, and a rueful apology for the once grand fabric whose name of Rosslyn Castle is so intimately associated with melody and song' (Grant's Old and new Edinburgh, Vol. III, p.347). Even in the earlier centuries of the castle's existence when life in the north was hard and austere, Scotland had a culture and refinement of its own. The fine arts were encouraged, and there was the splendor of feudal pageantry. From the *Exhequer Rolls*, we know the luxury of the court of James I; after his death his queen bought from

Flanders gold rings, crimson satin, purple velvet, ostrich feathers, and mantles of marten fur and silver seal, and she also had a new ship built for herself at Leith in 1435, costing £25 18 3d. (*James I*, Balfour Melville, pp.249, 263, 278)

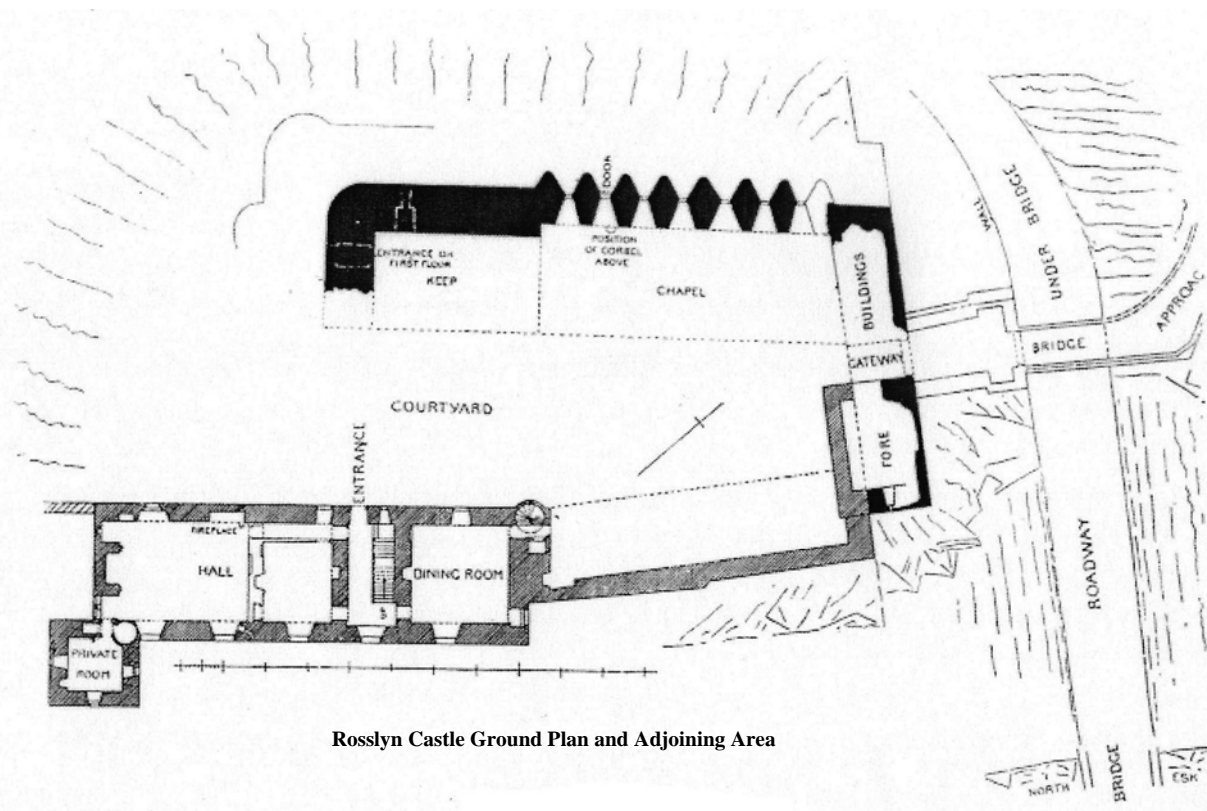
Chivalry in the earlier phases of our history was not considered a moral extravagance, but rather the sole justification for strength and power. Students, poets and painters stayed at Rosslyn, and the oaken hall and tapestried rooms resounded to the music played on lute and harpsichord. 'Love and laughter held high carnival and fair maidens were wooed and won by valiant squire and knight; conflicting emotions of love and duty not infrequently playing a decisive part in romantic and tragic amours.' (Father Hay).

And in the lofty Arched hall
Was spread the gorgeous festival,
Their clanging bowls, old warriors quaffed,
Loudly they spoke and loudly laughed;
Whispered young Knights in tones more mild,
To ladies fair and ladies smiled.
Round goes the flasks of ruddy wine
From Bordeaux, Orleans, or the Rhine,
Their tasks the busy servers ply,
And all is mirth and revelry.

Sir Walter Scott

On entering the castle by the bridge, we can see the strength of the former stronghold and the difficulty of attacking it. It was built for security and protection in these hard times; one must remember that those were the days in Scotland when nationalism was a vital force and brave men fought and died for that freedom which they counted dearer than life itself. The walls of the castle were 9 feet thick and the total length of about 200 feet while the width was 90 feet, and there are several places where one can see that it has been literally hewn out of the living rock. The modern part of the 1662 building is inhabited, and visitors can gain admission to the two lower tiers of vaults by passing through a doorway in the garden wall. In front of the entrance to these vaults, called the 'The Old Guardrooms,' from the garden and near the base of the clock tower, stands a very old yew tree of enormous size, that is thought to have been planted about the time the castle was built, at the beginning of the 14th century. Tradition says that the wood from the tree was used for the archers' bows. It may give some indication of the poor condition of Scottish timber at the time, that the parliament of James I in 1426 passed a law that merchants trading overseas were to bring home from each voyage as much harness and armour and spear-shafts and bow-shafts as they could carry. In addition, the castle gardens were famed for their strawberries in 1815 (The Battle of Waterloo), and many people used to come out from Edinburgh to pick them.

The kitchen, bakehouse and dungeons are situated in three storeys below the level of the courtyard, under the present living quarters. The bottom floor consists of the kitchen, with a very large fireplace and a small window, the 'great turnpike' and four cellars or dungeons, only one of which has a fireplace. The floor above has the bakehouse and a large oven; the two floors are connected by the staircase, and with the garden by means of the passage on the second floor,



Rosslyn Castle Ground Plan and Adjoining Area

the entrance to which is near the yew tree.

At the bottom of the 'great turnpike' on the right-hand side between the stair and the kitchen is a doorway which leads down a few steps under the stair, how far down it is impossible to say, as it was filled in years ago. It is thought that it may have led to vaults below, for the remains of strong iron hinges for a heavy door are visible; possibly it could have been some sort of recess, many of which would hold the open iron lamp used with a rush wick—the Scottish crusie lamp, for it goes without saying that little daylight penetrated these old buildings.

At the foot of the 'great turnpike' is an opening or 'hatch' in the roof, obviously a lift or joist from the kitchen and bakehouse to the great hall above, or the anteroom adjoining it. In the kitchen and also the bakehouse, there is a small hole 8 inches or 9 inches square, almost certainly used as a speaking tube communicating with the anteroom of the great hall. The drainage was very primitive; examples of this are seen in the south-east side of the kitchen and bakehouse, while in the window jambs of both apartments, a broken hole shows how the drainage came out through the body of the wall and emptied itself through an opening cut in the rock outside. There are several such outlets seen in various places around the castle.

The Dutch contractor, Peter Bruschi, who brought the first public gravitation supply to the city of Edinburgh from Tod's Well, Comiston, in 1676, introduced water in lead pipes to the inner court and lower vaults of Rosslyn Castle in the time of Sir James St Clair who was made a Burgess of Edinburgh by Provost Currie in 1673, and was responsible for obtaining Bruschi's services for the city. (*Genealogy*, p. 106 and *Call of the Pentlands*, chapter XIII).

To return to the castle, the oven in the bakehouse is 8 feet long by 7 feet high, with a runway cut for the grease from the dripping roasting jacks and spits.

The third floor is entered only from the house above;

opposite the door of the first compartment to the left is a built-up doorway which leads to the vaults which are believed to be under the courtyard. Here legend has it, is a dungeon called 'Little Ease,' a pit into which prisoners were let down on ropes. Above the third floor is the great hall, partly forming the kitchen of the modern dwelling; the other part contains a handsome moulded fireplace over which are the initials of Sir William St Clair and his wife Jean Edmiston, with the date 1597. There is also a small recess, probably used for washing glasses and cleaning silver. The entrance to the clocktower is through a doorway with gothic moulding. All the compartments to the two upper floors have eyelet or shot-holes while in the lower floor the original window bars both vertical and horizontal are interlaced in the usual Scottish fashion to give additional strength and security.

In 1983, following a six year programme of restoration, the building welcomed its first Landmark Trust visitors. They are able to rent the castle for a holiday, and enjoy the history and romance of a remarkable place.

The Five Different Periods at which the Castle was Built

- (1) 1304 approx.—Lantern, Lamp or Peel Tower at the north-east corner.
- (2) 1390 approx.—The Keep or Great Dungeon
- (3) 1417-1450—The connecting portion between (1) and (2) above along the north-west, north and north-east sides.
- (4) 1582-1597—The vaults up to the courtyard level, the tower at the south corner and the great hall.
- (5) 1622—The modern part now standing over the north-east end of the vaults.

Editor's Note: The Earl of Rosslyn has kindly granted the editor permission to publish the foregoing article which is an extract from one chapter of his late father's guide book for the chapel entitled 'Rosslyn-It's Chapel, Castle and Scenic Lore.'

Fred Inkster Appointed to New Position of Northwestern Area Commissioner

Clan Sinclair USA's President, Mel Sinclair, and Western Region Vice President have agreed to a restructuring of the Western Region to transfer the oversight function of clan activities of certain states to Fred Inkster. Fred's new title will be Northwestern Area Commissioner, and the states under his jurisdiction are Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah and Washington. In his new capacity as an area commissioner, Fred will still be Commissioner for Oregon.

By way of introduction, Fred (Frederic John Inkster) was born in Edinburgh, Scotland on April 24, 1944. His family moved to the United States in 1947, settled in Fox River Grove, Illinois for seven years and then moved to Southern California.

Fred attended grade and high school in west Los Angeles, and became involved with the Order of DeMolay as his dad was a Mason. He went through the ranks and became Master Counselor of the Santa Monica Chapter 11, but did not continue on into the Masonic order.

After college, Fred married his first wife, moved to Las Vegas, Nevada and had two children. He later moved to Spokane, Washington and then to the Oregon coast. Fred's wife died in 2005, and he moved to Roseburg, Oregon where he met and married his current wife. The couple have five children and five grandchildren.

Fred became involved in Scottish events in Oregon in 2000, joining Clan Sinclair in 2002. While other family members are connected to Clan Gunn, he began researching his heritage through the family genealogist who lived in Ontario, Canada where a great number of the Inkster family settled after World War I.

The Inkster family name goes back to 490 when its name was pronounced Ingvar, and I have found a direct line to a Viking king by that name. Most of the Inkster family still in Scotland is in the Hebrides. My mother's side of the family was Kinghorn. The family Castle was located in the town of the same name, but like so many buildings during the Reformation, it was mostly destroyed, basically only the Kinghorn Church remains today and that dates back to 1774, however the current Laird of Kinghorn has offices in Glamis Castle.

Fred has been a Clan Sinclair Commissioner for Oregon since 2007, and in addition to hosting clan tents at various games and festivals, his involvement in the Scottish community takes many forms. As an effective speaker who has no problems addressing a large crowd, Fred acts as master of ceremonies at many events, including for example, the Scottish New Year Music Festival in Eugene in early January and the Douglas County Scottish Society's Robert Burns Dinner later in the month. His speaking engagements also involve presenting The Immortal Memory to celebrate the life and works of Scotland's national bard, Robert Burns. In late January, Fred presented The Immortal Memory at the Robert Burns Dinners sponsored by the Oregon Scottish Society and the Eugene Scottish Festival. He also is Vice Commander of the Northwest Scots Color Guard, and in that capacity in February, he led his honor guard group in presenting the colors at the Coastal Celtic Society's Robert Burns Dinner and the Glencoe Memorial Observance.



WHISKY CORNER

The quickest and easiest way by motor car to reach Wick or Thurso in Caithness is to take the A9 out of Inverness. Just before passing over the Dornoch Firth, the northbound traveler will pass close to the city of Tain with its world famous Glenmorangie Distillery. Founded in 1843, the Glenmorangie Distillery is one of Scotland's largest, producing the best selling Scotch in Scotland since 1983. Over half the distillery's annual production of 10 million bottles is sold in the United Kingdom.

Glenmorangie is said to mean "the glen of tranquility," and the existing distillery had its origins as a brewery. The stills at Glenmorangie are unique inasmuch as they are quite small in size, but the distillery boasts having the tallest columns of any stills in



Scotland at nearly 17 feet, claimed by the company to produce an extremely light taste.

It is said that upon first tasting Glenmorangie, film star Brigitte Bardot purchased twenty cases of the whisky. Today, the whisky is available in Original (10 years), 18 and 25 year old bottlings, special cask bottlings, cask finishes, extra matured bottlings and a range of special edition bottlings.

Glenmorangie 10 year old Original Single Malt is by far the distillery's most popular whisky, and it is highly rated, receiving a 93 point rating from The Malt Advocate and a 94 point rating in Jim Murray's "Whisky Bible." This malt is "delicate yet assertive" with a complex finish. It is one of my favorites. Glenmorangie single malts are widely sold in the United States and are well worth trying. Be sure to drink responsibly and do not mix alcohol consumption and driving. And also remember, you have to be at least 21 years of age to legally drink in the US.

...the Editor

ROSSLYN CASTLE AND COLLEGEHILL HOUSE- TO LET BY THE LANDMARK TRUST



The present Earl and Countess of Rosslyn have for many years been instrumental in the ongoing preservation of Rosslyn Chapel which receives funds through a special trust established in 1996. Other properties on the Rosslyn estate, namely Rosslyn Castle and Collegehill House, a former inn, are being preserved through The Landmark Trust which lets these two landmarks to the public.

Rosslyn Castle is perched on a rock promontory high above a wooded valley a hundred yards or so downhill from Rosslyn Chapel. To Sinclairs visiting this part of the world, the castle is perhaps the more appealing of the two properties as it is the home of their ancient ancestors. To live and sleep in such a place is a Sinclair romanticist's life-long dream fulfilled. With five single beds and one double in four separate bedrooms, the castle will accommodate a party of 7 people. Adding to this a fully functional kitchen, every board-and-room need can be accommodated. The castle can be rented throughout the year for as few as 4 to as many as 15 days. And considering the history-steeped ambiance of the place, the rental rates are better than competitive, especially for Sinclairs.

For those with a little bit of poet, novelist or artist in them, Collegehill House, the former inn located next to the chapel, is the perfect place to stay on your visit as it was here that the likes of Boswell, Dr. Johnson, Robbie Burns, J.M.W. Turner, the Wordsworths and even Queen Victoria found hospitality. And as a constant reminder of where you are, the view of the chapel next door is ever present through the window of the drawing room.

To learn more about the rental of the castle and the former inn, available dates and specific rates, please visit The Landmark Trust's web site at <http://bookings.landmarktrust.org.uk>. From the menu on the left of the page, click on "Our Buildings" which takes you to a page titled "Landmark Holidays." Scroll down the right hand menu to find detailed information about renting the two properties. Remember, monies from rental income of the Castle and Collegehill House will be used in their maintenance to ensure the properties' preservation for future generations.

THE SCOTSMAN FROM THURSO - USA'S ONLY FOREIGN BORN PRESIDENT

Association member, Alice Miller, brings to the attention of the editor a newspaper article entitled "The Forgotten Thurso Lad Who became US President." The article interestingly notes that St. Clair was America's first and only foreign born president. But how can this be? St. Clair's name is conspicuous in its absence in the long list of US presidents beginning with George Washington. Also, there is this thing about being foreign born. Section 1(4) of Article II of the US Constitution provides that "No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President;..." So, how can all of this be explained?

To find the right answers, we have to step back to the year 1774 to the convening of what would become known as the Continental Congress under an alliance between the colonies called the Articles of Association. The Continental Congress had six presidents between the years 1771 and 1779, the first being Peyton Randolph and the last being John Jay. Under the Articles of Association, the delegates endeavored to craft the first federal constitution which was finally ratified in 1781 as the Articles of Confederation. As a result, the Continental Congress ceased to exist, and the United States of America in Congress Assembled became the governing body with ten men holding the office of President of the United States in Congress Assembled (or more simply President of the United States). Arthur St. Clair was the 9th President, serving from February 2 to October 29, 1787. But the Continental Congress was a unicameral body vested with all of the powers of government- legislative, judicial, and executive. Recognizing the gross inadequacy of all these powers being vested in one body, President Arthur St. Clair and his 1787 Congress passed a resolution to hold a convention in Philadelphia to "render the federal Constitution adequate to the exigencies of Government and the preservation of the Union." From the Philadelphia Convention came an innovative new plan called the Constitution of 1787 that governs the United States of America to this day.



FLOWERS OF THE FOREST



Howard E. Swain, Jr.
1926-2009

Howard Eugene Swain, Jr. passed away after a courageous battle with cancer with his loving family at his side. He was born in Exeter, New Hampshire to Howard Eugene and Bessie (Conner) Swain. He grew up in Exeter and graduated from Exeter High School. He was a resident of Candia since 1955. He was employed as a heavy equipment mechanic by R.G. Watkins and Sons Construction Company, Amesbury, Massachusetts for more than 30 years.

He served in the U.S. Army during World War II in the 78th Division, 309th Regiment. He was a 50 plus year member of the Star of the East Lodge in Exeter, also holding memberships in Davenport Council, Washington Chapter, and DeWitt-Clinton Commander.

Howard joined the Clan Sinclair Association, Inc., USA in 1993. He played bagpipes in the Granite State Highlanders for many years. He was a dedicated husband and father, an avid hiker and outdoorsman, and thoroughly enjoyed New Hampshire's forest and mountains. Family members include his wife of 54 years, Marguerite (Brown) Swain of Candia; a daughter, Deborah Fexis of Nashua; a sister, Mary Bower of Norfolk, Connecticut; and two nephews, a niece and several cousins.

Excerpts above are from his obituary published in the Union Leader on October 1, 2009.

Thomas Alexander Sinclair
1918-2010



Tom Sinclair was a man who embodied success at every level and by every definition. He was born in San Diego, California and attended Whittier High School and Southwestern University in Los Angeles. He worked as a butcher to support his family.

Tom attained the rank of lieutenant commander as a World War II Navy fighter pilot. He became a war hero when his plane was hit after bombing a Japanese munitions train. He and his wingman were wounded, but Tom safely ditched his plane in the ocean and dodged gunfire until a U.S. submarine rescued them. He received a Purple Heart, Navy Air Medal and Presidential Unit Citation.

He became a Defense Department auditor after the

war and was often recognized for catching excessive billings by defense contractors. Tom also ran a tax accounting business, owned rental properties and served as treasurer of the South Montebello Irrigation District. He became district manager after his 40 year auditing career and retired at the age of 89. His son, Brian, succeeded him as manager.

Tom was married for 65 years to Patricia Sinclair, who passed away in 2008. He was a compelling storyteller who inspired others to follow his path to success. He joined the Clan Sinclair Association, Inc., USA in 2005. He was buried in the Rose Hills Cemetery in Whittier with military honors and Scottish bagpipes playing.

Excerpts above are from his obituary published in The Desert Sun on January 21, 2010.

Paul James St. Clair
1916-2010



Paul James St. Clair passed away peacefully in Santa Barbara, California with his children at his side. He was 94. Halleluiah ... once again joined with his beloved Bette, his wife of 70 years!! He was an incredible loving Father, devoted Husband, Companion, Friend, Grandfather, Advisor and Role Model for all of us over the years.

He was a veteran of the United States Navy, serving in the Pacific Theater during World War II. Paul was employed with the US Corps of Engineers prior to moving to San Bruno in 1952 to accept a job with the US Postal Service in San Francisco. He retired in 1971 as its Western Regional Compensation Manager. He was a parishioner of St. Robert's Church for 50 years. He coached basketball for St. Bruno's/ St. Robert's School for many years, mentoring the youth of the city. He was active in the St. Vincent De Paul Society, SIRS and worked as a Travelers Aid at the SF Airport. He loved sports and harbored particular passions for golf and the 49ers. He joined the Clan Sinclair Association, Inc., USA in 1996.

Paul is survived by his children; Michael James St. Clair of Marco Island, Florida, Richard Paul St. Clair of Santa Barbara, Gregory Emerson St. Clair of Sun Valley and Diane St. Clair Chandler of Santa Barbara, California; 11 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

Excerpts above are from his obituary published in the San Jose Mercury News on March 12, 2010.

GENEALOGY PAGE

NEVER BELIEVE AN INDEX

“Be a Doubting Thomas”

by Annette Hixenbaugh

Some people joke that a genealogist is a person who “reads a book from BACK TO FRONT!” We who do genealogical research laugh, but that statement is TRUE. We turn first to the Index in the back of the book to see if our ancestor/kinsman is mentioned.

But although Indices are very helpful. They are sometimes “lacking”. And I would caution you, NEVER, NEVER, BELIEVE AN INDEX! If you put your entire faith in an index, you may, many times be terribly disappointed if you don’t find the person (s) for whom you are searching.

Either I march too much to that “tune of a different drummer”, or expect too much of authors, I’m convinced that by the time most writers or writers’ helpers get to the index, they suffer a loss of logic. This sounds quite brazen coming from one who has NEVER published a book But ladies and gentlemen, I’ve looked in many, many indices, some written by people very educated, the family genealogist, or some esteemed Academic, and am still even more convinced of this “loss of logic” with each passing day. Some authors even decide not to trouble themselves with an index.

An example of this was in a definitive book on the Jacobites in Bonnie Prince Charlie’s army. The book, BONNIE PRINCE CHARLIE’S MUSTER ROLL, is, as titled, a comprehensive listing of persons in Charlie’s army. But its authors didn’t feel the necessity of providing an index with the book. A friend and I did feel the need, and set about the arduous task of compiling one for our own edification! It took a week or more of work!

My first indication of an Index deficiency came about 20 years ago, in a set of books called MAGNA CARTA SURIETIES! We’ll discuss this set of books in a subsequent column. There are 7 volumes which are an excellent source of research. When looking at one of the 7 volumes, I first consulted its index, looking for my Forrester family. None were listed in this volume. BUT being the “doubting Thomas” I am, I decided to let my fingers do the walking. After thumbing through many pages, Lo and behold, there was an important pedigree with one of my Forrester lassies and her parents listed. They were from the Forrester of Garden branch,, which contained important officers of the King’s court in the 15th and 16th century. The discovery of this pedigree provided the springboard for further research on a family I didn’t even know existed. Having discovered the mention of this family, led me to wonder exactly which data the author considered important enough to put in his index.

Another example of an index lacking in content, was in a really neat condensation of the DOMESDAY BOOK, in one volume. The original Domesday is a large set of volumes, giving a detailed list of the “holdings” of the English people in the year 1086. It was compiled by mostly monks under the direction of King William I of England,

known to posterity as William the Conquerer.

In the “condensed” version, there is a goodly index in the back of the book! I first looked for my Forrester family - finding one person mentioned by that surname, then I looked for any St. Clair, St. Clare or St. Clere, as the Sinclair family was known in the 11th century. There was no individual by any variation of that surname listed in the index. Yet I knew that at least one or two of this family had come to England at the at the time of the Conquest in 1066, and since that was 11 years earlier, certainly more members must have followed their kinsmen to England.

Fortunately, I was able to cross-reference the deficient index by going to our Tulsa Genealogy Center. They have a most comprehensive index of the families listed in the families listed in the Domesday, even many of the Anglo Saxon families. There were at least FOUR St. Clares listed in this comprehensive index! Why weren’t they listed in the “condensed, one-volume” version?

In a recent bio of King James IV of Scotland, I found the same problem with the index: Sir Duncan Forrester was Comptroller of this king’s household, and also a personal friend. But although Sir Duncan was mentioned in the TEXT of this book, he was NOT mentioned in the INDEX. And when mentioned in the text, his name is spelled Forster. It is NOT spelled this way in the official records of Scotland.

As I mentioned in an earlier paragraph about that “different Drummer”, I believe that every person, place or thing should be listed in an index. Now that may throw an undue burden on the author of a publication. But at least it wouldn’t leave the researcher shaking his head, saying, “I could have sworn “so and so” was in Scotland at that time, and that he held a very important office.....”!!!

So let me beg any aspiring authors among you readers of this column: PLEASE put a comprehensive index at the back of any book you decide to write - whether it be a genealogical family manuscript, or a book published by a major publishing company!

CEAD MILE FAILTE

“One hundred Thousand Welcomes”

New Members

January-March 2010

***Faye Ann Akers, Denver, CO**
Bradley Sinclair Barker, Jr. Cheyenne, WY
Bradley Sinclair Barker III, Ft Collins, CO
Sheila Marie Donnelly, Factoryville, PA
JoAnne Patricia Eisenbarth, Boise, ID
R. Conor O’Regan, Alexandria, VA
Dennis Lynn Miller, Muskogee, OK
Benjamin Thomas Sinclair, Winston Salem, NC
****Duncan A. Sinclair, Sherman Oaks, CA**
Jacob Drew Sinclair, Nevada City, CA
Terry Lee St. Clair, St. Charles, MO

***2009 Long’s Peak Scottish Festival, Estes Park, CO**
****2010 Queen Mary Scottish Festival, Long Beach, CA**

CLAN SINCLAIR USA MEMBER CELEBRATES THE VOYAGE OF PRINCE HENRY SINCLAIR

Clan Sinclair USA member, Susan Green Grady's ongoing commitment of time and energy to promote the memory of Henry St. Clair and his voyage of discovery to America in 1398 is messianic. She is a long standing member of the Prince Henry Society of North America and the Prince Henry Society of the USA whose objectives are to promote the recognition of Henry Sinclair as the first "documented explorer of North America" and aid research for the confirmation of his historical legacy as it relates to his North American Exploration.

In 1998, Susan worked with the late Pete Cummings as a member of the 600th Anniversary Committee to commemorate Prince Henry Sinclair's historic voyage to North America. For the Prince Henry Project Committee she wrote a book at the time titled "A Medieval Hero" for young readers which was a collection of fictional stories based upon fact about various aspects of Prince Henry's visit to North America.

An intrepid promoter of the Prince Henry story, Susan's endeavors over the years have taken many different forms, ranging from writing letters to newspaper editors and taking part in radio and TV interviews to speaking engagements, including one at the National Geographic headquarters in Washington. She has marched in several Scottish heritage parades, including the Tartan Day Parade in New York, where she proudly displayed the model of the early 1400 Scottish



bark her brother Robert Green built to showcase the kind of boat in which Prince Henry sailed to America.

Susan is dauntless in her continuing effort to educate a unknowing public about Prince Henry's pre-Columbian visit to America. She sets up display tables of her Prince Henry memorabilia at festivals and Scottish games throughout the Washington area and is most willing to talk to those interested about his voyage and the places he visited such as Westford, Massachusetts and Newport, Rhode Island. In the above photo, she is shown displaying some of her Prince Henry information at the Fifth Annual National Tartan Day Festival on Market Square in Alexandria, Virginia.



CLAN SINCLAIR MEMBER ALICE MILLER RECEIVES ACCOLADE - KNIGHT OF THE ST. ANDREW'S ORDER OF THE ROYAL THISTLE!



To those in Clan Sinclair who know her, she is Alice Miller of Modesto, California, a long-time member who has attended two international gatherings in Scotland and frequently contributes to *Yours Aye*. But in her alternative world of re-enactment, she is Lady Alice Sinclair, an active member of Saint Andrew's Noble Order of Royal Scots, a guild of about 85 men, women and children who attend Scottish Renaissance Faires and Scottish Games in primarily Northern California. The Guild of Saint Andrew's is a non-profit educational corporation dedicated to educating the public on the history, customs, dress and culture of Scotland in the mid 16th century by portraying the Court of Mary, Queen of Scots. Members of the guild play out the roles of different characters comprising the Court such as royals, ladies in waiting, courtiers and ambassadors, the guard, highlanders, Irish and children.

Alice has been a member of St. Andrew's Guild for 15 years, serving during the past five years as Modesto Guild House (Sinclair Castle) chatelaine or simply mistress of the castle. She is an able recruiter, responsible for bringing 20 new members into the guild over the years. Alice is a charter member of the guild's Event Committee, planning Winter's Feast, Opening of Parliament and other events. Operating a small business called Castle Treasures, she sells goods that appeal to Renaissance Fair folk, donating 10 percent of her table sales to the guild. For her long standing service, Alice was knighted by the guild in May of 2009, becoming a Royal Knight of the Realm, Knight of Saint Andrew's Order of the Royal Thistle. The two photos show Alice in her ceremonial gown and "Mary, Queen of Scots" conferring knighthood upon Alice. Alice is quick to point out that her knighthood and title do not apply to the outside world and only have relevancy within the renaissance community in California.

Clan Sinclair Games & Festivals Tentative Participation Calendar April-October 2010

State	Date	Event/Place	City
Oregon	April 10	> Oregon Scottish Heritage Festival-Linn County Fairgrounds	Albany
North Carolina	April 16-18	> Loch Norman Highland Games-Rural Hill	Huntersville
Nevada	April 17-18	> Las Vegas Celtic Highland Games-Floyd Lamb Park	Tule Springs
Maryland	April 24	> Southern Maryland Celtic Festival-Jefferson Patterson Park	St. Leonard
California	April 24-25	> Sacramento Valley Scottish Games-Yolo County Fairgrounds	Woodland
Maryland	May 8	> Frederick Celtic Festival-Frederick Fairgrounds	Frederick
Maryland	May 15	> Colonial Highland Gathering-Fair Hill Race Track	Fair Hill
Oregon	May 15	> Eugene Scottish Festival-Peace Presbyterian Church	Eugene
South Carolina	May 28-29	> Scottish Games & Highland Festival-Furman University	Greenville
California	May 29-30	> USS Highland Games-Orange County Fair & Event Center	Costa Mesa
Kentucky	June 3-6	> Glasgow Kentucky Highland Games-Barren River Lake Park	Lucas
Texas	June 4-6	> Texas Festival & Games-Maverick Stadium	Arlington
Rhode Island	June 12	> Scottish Heritage Festival-Washington County Fairgrounds	Richmond
Virginia	June 12-13	> Potomac Celtic Festival-Morven Park Equestrian Center	Leesburg
Illinois	June 18-19	> St. Andrews Society Highland Games-Oakbrook Polo Grounds	Oakbrook
Massachusetts	June 26	> Massachusetts Highland Games-Franklin County Fairgrounds	Greenfield
California	June 26-27	> San Diego Scottish Highland Games-Brengle Terrace Park	Vista
Wyoming	June 26-27	> Wyoming Celtic Festival & Games-Cam-Plex Park	Gillette
North Carolina	July 8-11	> Grandfather Mountain Games-MacRae Meadows	Linville
Oregon	July 10-11	> Athena Caledonian Games-City Park	Athena
Massachusetts	July 17	> Glasgow Lands Scottish Festival-Look Park	Florence
Oregon	July 17	> Portland Scottish Games-Mt. Hood Community College	Gresham
Washington	July 24-25	> Pacific Northwest Games-Enumclaw Expo Center	Enumclaw
Washington	August 7	> Spokane Highland Games-Spokane Expo Center	Spokane
Oregon	August 14	> High Desert Celtic Festival-Jefferson County Fairgrounds	Madras
Washington	August 14	> Whidbey Island Games-Greenbank Farm	Greenbank
Maine	August 21	> Maine Highland Games-Thomas Point Beach	Brunswick
Oregon	August 21-22	> Douglas Highland Games-Riverbend Park	Winston
California	September 4-5	> Pleasanton Highland Games-Alameda County Fairgrounds	Pleasanton
Virginia	September 4-5	> Virginia Scottish Games-Great Meadows Equestrian Center	The Plains
California	September 13	> Fresno Highland Games-Fresno Roeding Regional Park	Fresno
Washington	September 13-14	> Kelso Highlander Festival-Tam O'Shanter Park	Kelso
New Hampshire	September 17-19	> New Hampshire Highland Games-Loon Mountain	Lincoln
Oregon	September 18	> Eastern Oregon Games-Grant County Fairgrounds	John Day
Virginia	October 2	> Williamsburg Scottish Festival-Rockahock Campgrounds	Lenexa
Maryland	October 2-3	> Chesapeake Celtic Festival-Living Heritage Museum	Snow Hill
California	October 9-10	> Seaside Highland Games-Seaside Park	Ventura
Georgia	October 15-17	> Stone Mountain Highland Games-Stone Mountain Park	Stone Mountain
Virginia	October 23-24	> Meadow Highlands Games & Festival-The Meadow Event Park	Doswell

2010 GAMES & FESTIVALS REPORTS

CALIFORNIA

Queen Mary Scottish Festival - Long Beach February 13-14

It was exactly a year to the day since I stepped foot on the Queen Mary. Exactly, a year since I sought out the Clan Sinclair booth. A year since I volunteered to run the booth next time.

Oh what I had done in a year to prepare for this weekend. I had researched and written a book on my Sinclair line, traveled to Scotland and toured Castle Sinclair Girmigoe with Malcolm and Ian, joined the DNA Project and Ancestry.com and bought a Ancient Sinclair plaid skirt. For the table I had collected an entire suitcase of history books, travel brochures, clan maps, handouts, piper music, and crest stamps. My 1970's plaid lunch box was filled with children's hats, dolls and tin soldiers. My dad even came up from San Diego for the weekend wearing the Sinclair bow tie I had got for him ("no kilt thank you").

We sat all weekend and only met one new Sinclair who was mildly interested in learning about the clan. However, each of the other clans kindly came over and introduced themselves to "the new Sinclairs". Apparently there is a tight knit community of clan booth workers. They are friendly, playful and above all very welcoming. Some invite their family for a mini reunion complete with picnic and parade. Others mingle with their clan neighbors swapping stories about the clan and their own lives interchangeably.

Turns out working a clan booth isn't about stuff. We only needed to open ourselves up to the Scottish community and make others feel welcome too. Late on Sunday I gave a book to a little 8 year old girl who wasn't even in clan Sinclair. It was her first Games and she wanted to learn about her Scottish heritage. I gave her The Far Side of the Loch by Melissa Wiley, which is about Laura Ingalls Wilder's 3rd great grandmother. I hope she feels as excited and welcome as I did a year ago.

Libby Huff, Tent Host



Jim, Marva and Ethan Harvey; Sara and Ted Seater

FLORIDA

Central Florida Scottish Highland Games - Winter Springs January 16-17

The festivities began Friday night with a sponsors reception and pub night held at the host hotel, where Clan Sinclair was represented as a "Clan Sponsor." This year was the largest reception in recent years, with more than 200 people attending. In fact, people had to be turned away at the door. On top of that, the whisky tasting was sold out a month before the event.

Compared to the week before, the weather was great. The weekend before the games, Central Florida was under freeze warning for four days, which was a record cold for the area. Saturday and Sunday the clans gathered at "zero dark thirty" on the field to set up tents. This was another record; the event ran out of tents and had to borrow some from the City of Winter Springs. The attendance ran approximately between 15,000 and 20,000 total for both days.

The Clan Sinclair tent was attended by Ted and Sara Seater; Jim and Marva Harvey. Ted and Sara's grandson, Ethan, also attended but spent most of his time out on the

field. We greeted many Sinclair's and friends. A group of five or six older teenagers came up to the tent and said that their mother was a Sinclair and they marched in the parade with us, and said next year they would be in kilts. Activities at the Games this year included Scottish dancing, pipe bands, vendors selling all kinds of Scottish and Celtic wares and food, games for the children, athletic events and sheep dog demonstrations. This year, the Central Florida Scottish Highland Games introduced the Running River Ranch and their highland cattle. Ted was fascinated with the cattle and spent a lot of time talking with the owner of the Ranch and finding out more information on the breed. After talking with the owner Sara and Ted ate burgers made from the highland cattle. All in all, it was a great week-end.

Ted Seater, Central Florida Commissioner

VIRGINIA

Scots Irish Heritage Festival - Lexington

April 10

The weather was spectacular for the fourth annual Scots Irish Heritage Festival in Lexington, Virginia on April 10. The cool, sunny, breezy day brought out large crowds for this small event. As usual, the vendors were local artisans and craftspeople with an array of handmade pottery, jewelry, soaps, woodcrafts and Celtic wares. Besides the local pipe and drum bands, there were also wonderful singers and musicians, like Carl Peterson and Mary Smith. A handful of "Highlanders" demonstrated some of the Highland Games to the crowd. The Sinclair tent was manned by myself and my daughter, Mei, and we were very busy with a steady stream of clan cousins and others wanting to discuss aspects of Sinclair history. Others just wanted to view the helpful information we always display on other clan crests and tartans. Stopping by to chat were Sara Lapsley (mother is a Sinclair) with her husband and a friend from Lexington. They are perennial visitors and I love to hear about their trips to Scotland. Also checking in were Timothy and Josh St. Clair from Callaway who were very excited about finding out about their Scottish heritage. James St. Clair from Fairfield came by with his wife and their (very cute) 8-month-old daughter. Also, Trina Cline from Roanoke was very surprised that the Clines are a sept of Clan Sinclair and took home some information. Finally, Connie McLaughlin stopped in to say "hi" before she made her way back to Herndon to see the Ginns. This festival gets bigger and better every year and we are very much looking forward to going back to the mountains again next year.



Alison Sinclair

Alison Sinclair, Virginia Commissioner

Tartan Day Festival on Market Square - Alexandria

April 3

Clan Sinclair was one of several clans and Scottish heritage societies that set up tents at the Fifth Annual Tartan Day Festival on Market Square. There were a number of vendors present, including a couple selling Scottish theme prints and artwork and several selling Celtic jewelry. There was a music stage with plenty of entertainment throughout the afternoon. The weather was great and there was a big turnout of people guarantying a steady stream of visitors to the tent.

Tom Sinclair and I shared the hosting duties, including tent set-up. Later in the afternoon, Jeff Sinclair and Connor Harrison joined us to help out. Other clan members visiting the tent included; Conor O' Regan, his wife, Jasmin, and daughter Rihana, Susan Green Grady and Cheryl Mitchell. We recruited two new members, Eugene St. Clair of Arlington and Nancy Vessa who came all the way from Centennial, Colorado to visit our tent.

All things considered, this was a good festival and we will be returning next year. For several of our members - Jeff Sinclair and Connor Harrison, Conor O' Regan and his family and Cheryl Mitchell - their next clan event will be the Greater Greenville Scottish Games & Highland Festival on May 28 and 29. Locally, our next event will be the Potomac Celtic Festival in Leesburg on June 12-13.



Tom Sinclair

Bud Ginn, Virginia Commissioner

A NOTE FROM THE CLAN STORE MANAGER

Dear fellow clansmen and women:

There are several things happening with the Clan Store now. At the moment, the Store is in a state of transition, but is open for business. I am taking inventory and updating the Clan Sinclair product line as well as taking photographs of merchandise items so with a fuller description of the items you can better see what is offered, look for it in future newsletters and on line at the Clan Sinclair USA website.

If you have any suggestions on merchandise you might like to see in the Store please contact me via email Brenda.ClanSinclairStore@gmx.com or you can call me at 678-402-8601. One of my goals is to "unveil" some of the new line during the AGM at the Greenville Games May 28 and 29, 2010.



Clan Sinclair Association, Inc. (USA)

Clan Store

Spring 2010



Product Number	Description	Qty	Unit Price	Total
1	Sinclair Crest Lapel Pin / Tie-Tac — Crest is blue and gold with white background		\$10.00	
2	Engrailed Cross Pin / Tie-Tac — White pin with black engrailed cross		\$5.00	
3	Engrailed Cross Flag (3' x 5')		\$65.00	
4	Clan Sinclair Tote Bag— Ivory canvas 15" x 16" tote bag with crest on front		\$10.00	
5	Sinclair Tartan Visor— Made from Sinclair Hunting Green cotton. (one size fits all)		\$15.00	
	Books— (check your selection)			
6	___ Guide to Rosslyn Chapel — a reprint of 100 pages— a refreshing view of a famous chapel— by Reverend John Thompson edited by Ward Ginn, FSA Scott	_____	\$10.00	
7	___ Templar Legacy & the Masonic Inheritance — by Tim Wallace Murphy	_____	\$10.00	
8	___ Sword of the North- (Novel about Prince Henry) — by Richard White Rare copy— (out of print) <i>*limited*</i>	_____	\$20.00	
	Video			
9	___ Sinclair Castles — Video narrated by our Chief <i>*limited*</i>	_____	\$15.00	
	Books on CD — (check your selection)			
10	___ Chapel and Castle of Rosslyn — containing more than 180 pages of hard to find information about Rosslyn Chapel and Castle and near by landmarks.	_____	\$10.00	
11	___ The Saint-Clairs of the Isles — by Roland Williams Saint-Clair	_____	\$10.00	
12	___ The History of Caithness — by James T. Calder	_____	\$10.00	
13	Commemorative Plate — Prince Henry Voyage 1398—1998 <i>*limited*</i>		\$10.00	
14	Forest Green Polo w/ Sinclair Crest 2000 SM / MED / LG <i>*limited*</i>		\$10.00	
15	White T-shirt 2 sided Black and White MED only <i>*limited*</i>		\$10.00	

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Sub Total \$ _____

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Please send checks payable to “ Clan Sinclair ” and mail to:

**Clan Sinclair Store
209 The Glades
Chapel Hill, NC 27517**

**** Sorry we do not except Credit Cards at this time ****

Clan Sinclair Association, Inc., (USA)

The Right Honorable Malcolm Sinclair, The Earl of Caithness
Hereditary Chief of Clan Sinclair

Mel Sinclair
President
224 Bransfield Road
Greenville, SC 29615
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Mel@ClanSinclairSC.org



Alta Jean (AJ) Ginn
Membership Secretary
12147 Holly Knoll Circle
Great Falls, VA 22066
703-430-6745
aginn@cox.net

Web Site: clansinclairusa.org

Membership Classifications: (please circle one)

Membership (includes spouse and all minor children living at home).....\$20.00
Sponsor Membership.....\$35.00

New Member _____ Renewal _____

New Members: Did you receive this application from a Clan Sinclair Representative? Yes ___ No ___
Name of Representative if known: _____

Did you receive this application from your local Highland Games? Yes ___ No ___
Name of Highland Games attended _____

PLEASE PRINT

Last Name: _____ First: _____ Middle: _____ Birth Date: _____

Spouse Name: _____ First: _____ Middle: _____ Birth Date: _____

MINOR CHILDREN: (Living at home)

Name: _____ Birth Date: _____ Name: _____ Birth Date: _____

Name: _____ Birth Date: _____ Name: _____ Birth Date: _____

ADDRESS:

Street or P. O. Box: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone # _____ Email Address: _____

Occupation: _____ Scottish Interests: _____

CLAN CONNECTION: (From whom in your family do you inherit the name Sinclair or Sept name)

Father _____ Paternal Grandfather _____ Paternal Grandmother _____

Mother _____ Maternal Grandfather _____ Maternal Grandmother _____

Other (Explain) _____

Membership is good for the period of one year from the date of application or renewal. A renewal notice will be sent to you in the month your membership expires. **Make check or Money Order payable to Clan Sinclair and mail to:**

Clan Sinclair, 12147 Holly Knoll Circle, Great Falls, VA 22066

WE DO NOT ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS AT THIS TIME!



Clan Sinclair Association (USA)
12147 Holly Knoll Circle
Great Falls, VA 22066
clansinclairusa.org

To:

THE ROYAL HUNT OF ROSLIN

King Robert the Bruce, when he returned from Ireland, and his country free from King Edward's tyranny, began to take pleasure in pastimes, as hunting and hawking. So upon a time he appointed a great hunting upon Pentland Hills, which was then the king's forrest, and when nobles were all assembled, and had made two or three days' pastime, he declared to them how he had oft hunted a white faunch deer, never ever could his hounds prevail, and desired them if they had any to try them.

They hearing the king's speech, denied that they had any could kill the deer. Sir William Saintclair, having two red fellow hounds, named Help and Hold, says, not thinking that any should charge his words, that he would wager his head that they should kill the deer before ever she came over

the marche burne; but the words no sooner vanished in the aire, but it was declared to the king, who taking indignation that his hounds should be the speediest, would have him abide att his word, and laid against his head all Pentland Hills and Pentland Moor, with the Forest, and immediately he caused make proclamation that all should bind up their hounds, and be quiet, least they should affray the deer, except a few horsemen with ratches to search her forth. Sir William Saintclair, greatly astonished att that, went with his hounds to the best hounding part he could find, and, according to the custome of that time, he prayed to Christ, the blessed Virgin Marie, and Sainte Kathrine, as mediators, to save him from danger. His prayer was no sooner ended, but the deer, by clamour of the people being raised, came off the back hills to that part where he was, who hunting his hound his hound called Hold first, then Help, and followed speedily himself, being mounted upon a gallant steed, till he saw the hinde passé to the middle of the burne, wherat he fell on his face, beseeching Christ to have mercie on him, but the hound called Hold came to the deer, and made her stay in the burne, and then Help came and made her goe to the same side where Sir William was, and there slew her. The king sieing this, came and embraced Sir William, and gave him those lands in free forestrie, which contained the Kirktone, Loganhouse, Earnscraig, Whitehaugh, Easter and Wester Summerhopes, Back and For Spittles, Midlethird and Skipperfields. After this Sir William Saintclair, in remembrance of this, in the plasce where he made his last devotion, builded the church of St. Katherine in the Hopes, which now remains to this day. Know, reader, that the hill on which King Robert stayed till the deer was hunted, to this day is called the King's Hill, and the place where Sir William hunted is called the Knight's field. It is reported that Sir William Saintclair sent a priest to the grave of that holy woman Saint Kathrine, in which there is a precious oyle, that issueth from her bones, to bring him therof, that he might carry it to his new-builded chapel. The priest goeing, and returning with the oyle, he became so weary that he was forced by the way to rest him att a place a mile distant from Libertoune Church, where falling asleep upon a rush bush near by, lost his oyle. The news wherof coming to Sir William Sainclair, he made the workemen to dig the place where the oyle was spilt, and presentlie up sprung a fountain, which to this day hath like a black oyle swimming upon it. He then bethought himself of the great robberie committed about Sainte Kathrines in the Hopes, considering that Saint Kathrine would not permit the baulme of her bones to brought to sutch a prophane place, least they who came to worship there should, without all religious reverence, be rigorously robbed.



From Roland Saint Clairs's "The Saint Clairs of the Isles" (Father Hay's account of legend at page 479)