

CLAN POLLOCK, INCORPORATED



MOTTO
Audacter et Strenue
Bold and Strong

Volume 1
No. 9



CINNEADH POLLAG

POLLAG
A POOL OF INFORMATION
March 1984

POLLOCK, POLLOK, POOK, POLK, POLKE, PAULK, POALK, POALKE, POULK,
POOLKE, POGUE

" A person who takes no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors cannot expect to be remembered for his noble deeds by remote descendants."

Editor's Corner

A number of clan members have asked about starting a genealogy column in the Pollag. I believe it would be useful to those who are working on their family tree. The first column will appear in the next issue of the Pollag. Mail your requests for information to me. Please limit your individual requests to information on one person per issue of the Pollag. This will permit more clan members to be accommodated in each issue. I will devote as much space as I can to this column, based on the number of requests I receive.

Richard Pollock, our clan chief, has informed me that cloth in the Pollock tartan is still available for purchase. Send your orders to Caledonian Imports, P.O. Box 20165, Birmingham, AL 35216.

Parts of the clan mailing list have been revised and there is always the chance some errors have been introduced. Please advise if there is an error in either your name or address.

The clan owes a thank you to Marion Dunbar and Gail Carden. Together they made and sold needlework to purchase a Clan Pollock trophy. The trophy is to be awarded in the name of Clan Pollock to a winner in the dancing competition at the Grandfather Mountain games next July. Thanks to both of you for your efforts. I think its a great idea.

After a discussion with several members of the clan, I have secured an artist to redraw the boar featured on the clan crest. The boar will be drawn to appear more wild and fierce in line with the one which appears on the Pollock crest.

I would appreciate some information on Clan Pollock activities

from some of the clan commissioners. When events of interest to the clan occur in your area, please let me know so that information can be included in the Pollag. It doesn't necessarily have to be clan related. For that matter, anyone, commissioner or not, who would like to contribute an article or provide some interesting bit of information, you are more than welcome.

Finally, a reminder that membership dues of \$10.00 for 1984 are due. If you have not already done so, please send your check (in U.S. currency) to Rosemary Pollock, 305 Edinburgh Dr., Cary, NC 27511. My special thanks to Rob and Rosemary for the wonderful work they did last year as the clan secretary and treasurer respectively. They have significantly contributed to getting the clan back on its feet again.

New Members

Ten new members have joined the clan since publication of the last issue of the Pollag. We welcome them and sincerely hope they enjoy the kinship we enjoy. They are:

Allan MacKay - Winchester, NH
Sarah Zaengle - Cheyenne, WY
Mitzie Lee - Portage, MI
Andrew Pollock - Billings, MT
Richard C. Pollock - Chatham, Ontario, Canada
Edith Zink - Arlington, VA
Helen George - Burrell, CA
Alice Montgomery - Charleston, SC
Jean Chastain - St. Augustine, FL
Sandra Hirsch - Westerly, RI

I will send the full address to anyone wishing to write to one of our new members. Their names and addresses will appear on the membership list the next time it is published and mailed to all members of the clan.

Flowers O' The Forest

It is with deep regret I announce the passing away of a member of the clan. David A. Rennie of Norman Oklahoma passed away in October 1983. All of us offer our deepest sympathy to his widow, Wenona, and other members of his family. We know he will be missed.

The Maxwell History

This issue of the Pollag marks the initial segment of the history of Clan Maxwell. I do not pretend that this is a result of a large amount of research on my part. It is not. All I shall attempt to do is to present the history contained in a single source document in digested form. Where I thought appropriate, I have added some personal comments. These have been enclosed in brackets. I hope all find this history interesting.

The founder of the Maxwell family is said to have been a certain Maccus, the son of Undwin, a Saxon noble, who, at the Norman

Conquest, took refuge in Scotland. He was a distinguished person in the reigns of Alexander I and David I, receiving from the latter a grant of fertile lands on the banks of the Tweed, near Kelso. This place became known as Maccuswel, (Maccus' Well), which eventually became the family name of Maxwell. He witnessed an inquest which David ordered to be made about the year 1116. A Herbert de Maccuswel, who died in 1143, made a grant of the Church of Maccuswel to the monastery of Kelso. A Sir John de Maccuswel was Sheriff of Roxburgh and Teviotdale in 1207, and held the office of Great Chamberlain from 1231 to 1233. His son, Aymer de Maxwell, was Sheriff of Dumfriesshire and Chamberlain of Scotland. He also obtained the office of Justiciary of Galloway. By his marriage with the daughter and heiress of Roland de Mearns, he obtained the land and baronies of Mearns and Nether Pollok in Renfrewshire, and Dryps and Calderwood in Lanarkshire. His second son, John, was the founder of the Nether Pollok branch of the family, on whom a baronetcy was conferred in 1682. [The Barony of Mearns, as near as I have been able to determine, bordered the eastern boundary of the Barony of Pollok. I believe the modern-day town of Newton Mearns is located in Mearns. I do not know where the boundary ran between Pollok and Mearns. I suspect it ran in a north-south direction, west of Newton Mearns and east of the Balgray Reservoir.]

Throughout the perilous and trying times of the wars for Scottish independence, the Maxwells, like many other Scottish nobles of the Saxon and Anglo-Norman race, repeatedly changed sides. In the year 1300, Sir Herbert Maxwell, grandson of Sir John, held the castle of Caerlaverock for the Scottish cause, and was besieged by a powerful English army under Edward I. No less than eighty seven of the most illustrious barons of England were said to have been present in the English force. "Caerlaverock was so strong a castle," says a contemporary chronicler, "that it did not fear a siege; therefore the king came himself because it would not consent to surrender. But it always furnished for its defense whenever it was required, with men, engines, and provisions. Its shape was like that of a shield, for it had only three sides all round, with a tower in each angle, but one of them was a double one, so high, so long, and so large, that under it was the gate, with a drawbridge, well-made and strong, and a sufficiency of other defenses. It had good walls, and good ditches filled to the edge with water; and I believe there never was seen a castle so beautiffully situated, for at once could be seen the Irish Sea towards the west, and to the north a fine country, surrounded by an arm of the sea, so that no creature born could approach it on two sides without putting himself in danger of the sea. Towards the south it was not easy, because there were numerous dangerous defiles of wood and marshes, and ditches where the sea is on each side of it, and where the river reaches it; and therefore it was necessary for the host to approach towards the east, where the hill slopes."

[I visited Caerlaverock in 1976. At that time much of it was in ruins. The west wall was on the verge of collapse. Measures were being taken, however, to strengthen the wall and to save other

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[I visited Caerlaverock in 1976. At that time much of it was in ruins. The west wall was on the verge of collapse. Measures were being taken, however, to strengthen the wall and to save other

portions of the castle from further damage due to the ravages of time. It still remains an interesting and picturesque place to visit. Decorations carved into the stone of the inside walls clearly indicate that in times past, it was a place of elegance.]

The Maxwells, under their gallant chief, made a vigorous defense, showering their assailants with huge stones and arrows. The siege lasted for sometime, but the English were determined to achieve a victory. Eventually the besieged were compelled to surrender. When it was found that the garrison which had defied the English army amounted to only sixty men, the event was viewed according to the chronicler, "with much astonishment." Possession of the castle was subsequently restored to Sir Eustace Maxwell, Sir Herbert's son. He at first embraced the cause of John Baliol, and in 1312 he received from Edward II an allowance of twenty pounds to secure Caerlaverock so the fortress would not fall into the hands of forces inimicable to English interests. He afterwards, however, gave his adherence to Robert Bruce, and his castle in consequence underwent a second siege by the English. This time the English were unsuccessful. Maxwell feared, however, that this important stronghold might ultimately fall into the hands of the enemy, enabling them to control the district. Sir Eustace, therefore, dismantled the fortress, a service and sacrifice for which he was liberally rewarded by Robert Bruce.

The chiefs of the Maxwells were by no means consistent in their course or steady in their allegiance. During the reign of David II, they somehow contrived in the end to be on the winning side, and honors, offices, and estates continued to accumulate in the family. They were Wardens of the West March, Stewards of Kirkcudbright, Stewards of Annandale, ambassadors to England, and Provosts of Edinburgh. [The marches were areas which were established on both sides of the border, three on each side. They were designated the east, middle, and west marches. Each march was governed by a warden who was appointed by the governing monarch. The wardens position was one of great authority. A serving warden was often presented with opportunities to increase his power within the march. As we shall see in future segments of the history of this illustrious clan, this power lead to disputes with the reigning sovereigns as well as to feuds with rival Scottish families. These feuds sometimes led to violent and bloody clashes.]

Maxwells were created Lords of Parliament, with the titles of Baron Maxwell, Baron Herries, Baron Eskdale, and Baron Carlyle, Earl of Morton, and Earl of Nithsdale. They intermarried with the Stewarts, Douglasses, Setons, Crichtons, Hamiltons, [Pollocks] and other powerful families. If the Maxwells had succeeded, like the heads of the great houses of Hamilton, Douglas, and Scott, in retaining possession of the estates which belonged to them in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, today they would be among the three or four most extensive landowners in Scotland.

Sir Herbert Maxwell of Caerlaverock, was knighted at the coronation of James I, March the 16th, 1441. He was created a Lord

of Parliament, on the forfeiture of the Douglasses, in 1445. Robert, the second Lord Maxwell, obtained a grant of Eskdale, which remained in the possession of the clan for nearly two centuries. It eventually became the property of the Duke of Buccleuch. John, fourth Lord Maxwell, fell at Flodden, along with three of his brothers. Robert, his eldest son and successor, became one of the most powerful nobles in Scotland. He took a prominent part in public affairs during the reign of James V, and the Regency of Arran. He was appointed Warden of the West March, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, and a member of the Secret Council when King James was declared of age to assume the government of the realm.

He accompanied that monarch in his celebrated raid to the Borders. The raid proved fatal to Johnnie Armstrong and a number of other Border reivers. [Reivers is an old English word for raiders.] According to the local history of the district, this catastrophe was mainly due to the treachery of Lord Maxwell. He seized the Armstrongs on their journey from Eskdale to pay homage to the King. He apparently convinced James that these stalwart freebooters [the Armstrongs and other borderers] had no intention of coming voluntarily into the presence of the King. He, therefore, had forcibly brought to them to him to receive the punishment they deserved for their offenses. The allegation is corroborated by the fact that Maxwell obtained from the King a gift of the forfeited lands of the Armstrongs, which in the charter were declared to have been bestowed upon him for his services in bringing John Armstrong to justice. If so, the curse which accompanies ill-gotten gains seems to have rested on the gift.

Lord Maxwell appears to have stood high in the esteem and confidence of King James. On the king's escape in 1528 from the castle in which he was held captive by the Douglasses, Maxwell was immediately summoned to receive a grant of the lordships of Crawford-Douglas, and Drumsiar, a portion of the forfeited estates of the Earl of Angus. In 1532 he was created an Extraordinary Lord of Session; in 1536 he was appointed one of the members of the Council of Regency, during the absence of the King in France; and in the following year he was one of the ambassadors sent to the French Court to negotiate the marriage of James to Mary of Guise.

Lord Maxwell was taken prisoner at the battle of Solway Moss, in 1542. While on foot, he was endeavoring to restore some degree of order to the confused and panic-stricken ranks of the Scottish forces. When comrades and friends urged him to mount his horse and flee, he is said to have replied, "Nay, I will rather abide here the chance that it shall please God to send me, than go home and be hanged." He was released from prison in 1543. To secure their release, Maxwell and other imprisoned Scottish nobles subscribed to a bond acknowledging Henry as lord superior of the kingdom of Scotland. They promised to do their utmost to put the government of the country and its fortresses into the hands of the English King. They also agreed to have the infant Scottish princess delivered to England so that ultimately she could be married to the king's son, Prince Edward. The nobles pledged to return to captivity in

England if they failed to achieve the object of their promises. Lord Maxwell was the only noble who remained faithful to his pledge. He was imprisoned in the Tower of London by King Henry.

The Master of Maxwell, the Earl's eldest son, also fell into the hands of the English in 1545. Every effort was made to induce them to agree to give up all the Maxwell strongholds to the English King. Maxwell's offer to prove himself a true Englishman by serving under Hertford against Scotland, was not satisfactory to Henry. Eventually Henry was successful in extorting Caerlaverock Castle from Lord Maxwell as the price of his liberty. The Regent Arran, however, succeeded in recovering the fortress, and also in capturing the Maxwell castles of Lochmaben and Thrieve. Lord Maxwell was imprisoned at Dumfries. After the murder of Cardinal Beaton, Maxwell was freed. Following a solemn, public protestation that it was the fear of losing his life that had prompted him to surrender Caerlaverock to the English, his castle of Lochmaben was restored to him, and he was appointed Warden of the West March. (To be continued).

***** SCHEDULE OF EVENTS *****

	<u>May</u>		<u>Jun</u>
Savannah Scottish Games Fort Jackson Savannah, GA	5	Ohio Scottish Games Oberlin College Oberlin, OH	23
National Scottish Festival Peary High School Rockville, MD	5	Tidewater Scot. Festival Norfolk Botanical Gardens Norfolk, VA	23
Scottish Heritage Gathering CSUN North Campus Northridge, CA	5-6	New Bruns. Highland Games Waasis Road Track Oromocto, New Brunswick, Can.	23
Kentucky Scottish Weekend Butler State Park Carrolton, KY	11-13	Kingsfld Highland Games Lakeside Park Kingsville, Ont. Canada	29-30
Gatlinburg Highland Games Gatlinburg, TN	18-20	Embro Highland Games Matheson Park Embro, Canada	30
Marin County Hghlnd Gathering Marin County Day School Corte Madera, CA	19	Grandfather Mtn. Games MacRae Meadow Linville, NC	<u>Jul</u> 12-15
Alma Highland Games Alma College Alma, MI	25-27	Campbell Highland Games Community Center Ath. Field Campbell, CA	14