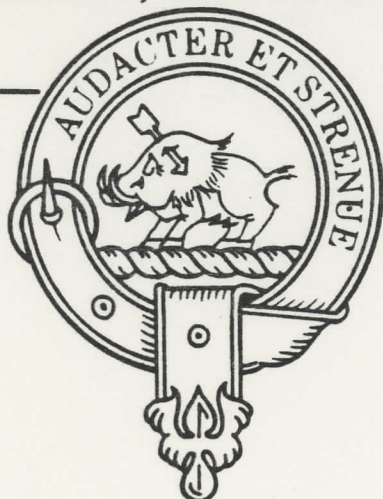


CLAN POLLOCK, INCORPORATED



CINNEADH POLLAG

POLLAG
A POOL OF INFORMATION
September 1984

MOTTO

Audacter et Strenue
Bold and Strong

Volume 1

No. 11

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

I have received some interesting information directly related to our Pollock ancestors in Scotland to pass on to you, thanks to Bill Pollock of Milwaukee WI who recently acquired it while on a trip to Scotland. It is by far the most detailed information I have seen on the last residence known as Pollock Castle in Renfrewshire, Scotland. This is what is known of its demise. In many ways it is a sad story, for it describes the end of a chapter in the history of the Pollocks of Scotland. Someday I hope to be able to acquire enough information to write that chapter. Thanks for the information Bill.

The Final Years of Pollock Castle

The most recent castle was built in 1889 after its predecessor was destroyed by fire. After the fire the old tower still remained and part of it was incorporated into the new structure. The new structure was reputed to have had 88 bedrooms and 365

windows. In 1939 the Army requisitioned the estate for use as an ammunition dump. Its owner at the time, Miss Ferguson-Pollock, remained at the estate until about 1944. In June of 1953 the castle and the surrounding woodlands and fields were sold and in 1954 the castle was demolished. When Miss Ferguson-Pollock departed the grounds in 1944, it was the first time in over eight hundred years that a Pollock had not occupied the land.

Rhys Pollock, the founder of our clans, once told me that if the destruction of the castle had been delayed just a few years, the residence would have come under British laws protecting structures of historical interest. A part of our heritage would have been saved. For those of you who may not know, Rhys brought a rock from Pollock Castle back with him from Scotland. Along with stones from castles of the seats of other Scottish clans, it was repositied in a large cairn located in MacRae Meadow at the base of Grandfather Mountain, N.C., site of the Grandfather Mountain Games. Its polished dark surface is beautiful.

In the latest edition of The Highlander, I noted, with pride a photo of two members of the clan taken at the Grandfather Mountain Games this year. Hamish Pollock and his son Hamish Jr. were shown at the Pollock tent. Clan Pollock was also mentioned in the article on the games as having participated in the opening ceremonies. Our thanks to those of you who represented us so well at the games. Being included in the Highlander report, especially with a photo, means Clan Pollock has "arrived." Marion Pollock sent me a photo of all of the members of the clan who attended. Those in the photograph have represented the clan in no less than 12 games this year. That's great! One of these days I'm going to join you.

Representing the clan at Scottish events is important to the development and well being of Clan Pollock. It provides an opportunity to tell others about us and to acquire new members. Working with other members of the clan develops a sense of belonging and comradeship. Most importantly, its just flat fun. There usually is a little work and some expense involved, but its worth it. If your local Scottish event takes place without a Clan Pollock booth being set up, shame on you. Write me if you want some information on how to do it. It's easy. You'll be glad you did.

By the way, all kidding aside, the Highlander is an outstanding magazine for anyone interested in Scottish events in the U.S., Canada, and Scotland, as well as other matters of interest to those of Scottish ancestry. The magazine is published seven times per year. If anyone is interested in subscribing I will gladly provide them with their mailing address. The U.S. subscription rate is \$9.50 per year. The rate is \$10.50 in Canada.

Rosemary Pollock, our treasurer, is working on developing

membership certificates for the clan. They will be suitable for framing. Each of the members will receive a certificate once they have been completed and properly attested to.

New Members

Three new members have joined the clan since publication of the last issue of the Pollag. We welcome them and sincerely hope they enjoy their membership with us. They are:

Martha Meredith - Biloxi, MS
Michael Polk - Ogden, UT
Laura Van Dyke - Richmond, CA

Their names and addresses will appear on the membership list which will be mailed to all members before the end of the year.

Genealogy

No requests for genealogical information were received this month.

The Maxwell History (continued)

Maxwell's imprisonment was first of all relaxed on his giving security that he would not go beyond the city of Edinburgh and a certain prescribed limit in its vicinity. He was set at liberty in the summer of 1586. In common with the other Popish lords, he made no secret of his sympathy with the projected invasion of England by Philip II of Spain. In April, 1587, he received license from the King to visit the Continent, on his giving a bond with cautioners that "whilst he remained in foreign parts he should neither privately, directly nor indirectly, practice anything prejudicial to the true religion presently professed within this realm," and that he should not return to Scotland without his Majesty's special license. It is scarcely necessary to say that the Earl deliberately violated his pledge, and during his residence in Spain he was in active communication with the Spanish Court. He not only witnessed the preparations that were in making for the invasion of England, but promised his assistance in the enterprise. Contrary to the assurance which he had given, he returned to Scotland without the King's permission, and landed at Kirkcudbright in April, 1588. A proclamation was therefore issued forbidding all his Majesty's subjects to hold intercourse with him.

It soon appeared that this step was fully warranted by Morton's treasonable intentions and intrigues. He and the other Popish lords had earnestly recommended the Spanish king to invade England through Scotland. They proposed that a Spanish army be landed on the west coast, promising that as soon as this was done they would join the invaders with a numerous body of their

retainers. Morton at once set about organizing an armed force in Dumfries, there to be in readiness for this expected result. Lord Herries, who had been appointed Warden, finding himself unable to suppress this uprising, warned the King of the danger which threatened the peace and security of the country. Morton was immediately summoned to appear before the Council. He not only disregarded the summons, but, in defiance of royal authority, set about fortifying his border fortresses. An indignant King James, now fully alive to the danger which threatened the kingdom, promptly collected a body of troops and marched to Dumfries, where Morton, unprepared for this sudden movement, narrowly escaped being made prisoner. Rapidly riding to Kirkcudbright, he procured a ship and put to sea.

The next day, the King called upon the castles of Lochmaben, Langholm, Thrieve, and Caerlaverock, to surrender. They all obeyed except Lochmaben, which was commanded by David Maxwell. He imagined that he would be able to hold the castle against the royal forces in consequence of their want of artillery. The King himself accompanied his troops to Lochmaben, and having borrowed a seiging (sic) train from the English Warden at Carlisle, battered the fortress so effectively that the castle was forced to surrender. They surrendered on the written assurance that their lives should be spared. This pledge, however, was shamefully violated by the King, who ordered the captain and four of the chief men of the garrison to be hanged before the castle gate, on the grounds that they had refused to surrender when first summoned.

It was of great importance that the person of the leader of the rebellion should be secured, and Sir William Stewart was promptly dispatched in pursuit of Morton. Finding himself closely followed, the Earl quitted his ship, and taking to the boat, made for land. Stewart, having discovered on seizing the ship that Maxwell had left it, followed him to land and succeeded in apprehending him. He was first conveyed to Dumfries, but was afterwards removed to the castle of Edinburgh. He contrived, even when in confinement, to take part in a new intrigue for a renewed attempt at invasion after the destruction of the Armada. Along with the Earl of Huntly and Lord Claude Hamilton he signed a letter to Philip, King of Spain, giving him counsel as to the mode in which another effort might be successfully made.

Maxwell was released from prison, along with the other Popish nobles, on the 12th of September, 1589, to attend James's queen on her arrival from Denmark. On his liberation he became bound under penalty of a hundred thousand pounds Scots to conduct himself as a loyal subject, and neither directly or indirectly to do anything tending to the alter the state of the religion presently professed and established by law. It appears that Lord Maxwell, about the beginning of the year 1592, professed to have become a convert to the Protestant religion. On January 26th he

subscribed the Confession of Faith before the Presbytery of Edinburgh. The sincerity of this profession may be doubted. It soon became evident that it had exercised no improvement in his turbulent character, for, on the 2nd of February following, he had a violent struggle for precedence in the Kirk of Edinburgh with Archibald, Earl of Angus, the new Earl of Morton. They were separated by the Provost before they had time to draw swords, and were conveyed under guard to their lodgings.

Repeated efforts had been made to heal the long-continued and deadly feud between the Maxwells and the Johnstones. Early in the year 1592 it seemed as if a permanent reconciliation had been at length effected. On the 1st of April of that year the rival chiefs entered into a full and minute agreement by which they "freely remitted and forgave all rancor of mind, grudge, malice, and feuds that had passed or fallen forth, betwixt them or any of their forbears in anytime bygone." They agreed to live in peace and harmony with each other. Any further disagreements that should arise between them were to be submitted for arbitration. But in the following year the two families came again into collision, and the feud was revived more fiercely than ever.

William Johnstone, of Wamphray, a noted freebooter, made a foray on the lands of the Crichtons of Sanquhar, the Douglasses of Drumlanrig, and some other Nithsdale barons. Johnstone was taken prisoner in the fray and hanged by the Crichtons. The Johnstones, under the leadership of William's nephew, and in greater force, made a second inroad into Nithsdale, killing a good many of the tenantry, and carrying off a great number of cattle. The freebooters were pursued by the Crichtons who overtook them at a pass called Well Path Head, by which they were retreating to their home territory in Annandale. The Johnstones stood at bay and fought with such desperate courage that their pursuers were defeated and most of them killed. (This skirmish became the subject of the an old Border ballad entitled "The Lads O' Wamphray") The Biddesburn, where the encounter took place, is said to have run with blood for three days. A remarkable scene which followed this sanguinary fray is thus described by a contemporary writer. "There came certain poor women out of the south country, with fifteen bloody shirts, to compleane (sic) to the King that their husbands, sons, and servants were cruelly murdered by the Laird of Johnstone, themselves spoiled, and nothing left them. The poor women, seeing they could get no satisfaction, caused the bloody shirts to be carried by pioneers through the town of Edinburgh, upon (sic) Monday, the 23rd of July. The people were much moved, and cried out for vengeance upon the King and Council. The King was nothing (sic) moved, but against the town of Edinburgh and the ministers." (Editor's Note - I think this quote is interesting in that it shows how the English of the day was written. To us today it appears as if it was written by the comic Norm Crosby. Maybe that's how he gets his material.) The court alleged they had procured that spectacle

in contempt of the King. The feeling thus excited, however, was so strong that the government was in the end constrained to take proceedings against the depredators.

The injured and despoiled Nithsdale barons complained of this sanguinary foray of the Johnstones to Lord Maxwell, who had been reinstated in his office of Warden of the Western Marches. But his recent pacification and alliance with Sir James Johnstone, of Dunsfellie, the chief of the clan, made him unwilling to move in the affair. The King, however, issued orders to the Warden to apprehend Johnstone and to execute justice on the "lads of Wamphray" for the depredations and slaughters which they had committed. At the same time Douglas of Drumlanrig and Kirkpatrick of Closeburn entered into a bond, in conjunction with the Warden's brother, bonding themselves to stand firmly by Lord Maxwell in executing the royal commands, and to defend each other, and to support him in his quarrels with his hereditary foes.

This secret alliance was speedily made known to the chief of the Johnstones, and he immediately applied for help in this hour of need to the friends on whom he could rely. The Scotts of Buccleuch, though their chief, a near relation of Johnstone, was then on the Continent, mustered five hundred strong, "the most renowned freebooters," says an old historian, "and the bravest warriors among the Border tribes." With them came the Elliots, Armstrongs, and Grahams, valiant and hardy, actuated by love of plunder, and by hostility to the Maxwells. On the other hand, the Warden, armed with the royal authority, assembled his new allies, the barons of Nithsdale, and displaying his banner as the King's lieutenant, invaded Annandale at the head of fifteen hundred men, with the purpose of crushing the ancient rival and enemy of his house.

On the 6th of December, 1593, the Warden crossed the river Annan and advanced to attack the Johnstones, who had skillfully taken up their position on an elevated piece of ground at the Dryfe Sands, near Lockerbie, where Lord Maxwell could not bring his whole force into action against them at the same time. A detachment sent out by the Warden was suddenly surrounded by a stronger body of the enemy and driven back on the main force, which it threw into confusion. A desperate conflict then ensued, in which the Johnstones and their allies, though inferior in numbers, gained a complete victory. The Maxwells suffered considerable loss in the battle and the retreat, and many of them were slashed in the face by the pursuers in the streets of Lockerbie -- a kind of blow which to this day in the district is called a Lockerbie lick. Lord Maxwell himself, who, says Spotiswood, was a tall man and heavy in armor, was overtaken in the chase, knocked from his horse, and slain under two large thorn trees which were long called "Maxwell's Thorns."

According to tradition, it was William Johnstone of the Kirkhill, the nephew of the Galliard, who overtook Lord Maxwell in his flight, and obtained the reward offered by Sir James Johnstone, by striking down the chief of the Maxwells and cutting off his right hand. The lairds of Drumlanrig, Closeburn, and Lag escaped by the fleetness of their horses. "Never ane (sic) of his awn (sic) folks," says an ancient chronicler, remained with Lord Maxwell. (Editor's Note -- Sir John Pollock, say the history books, died at the Battle of Dryfe Sands (Lockerbie) assisting his "cousin" Lord Maxwell. Let us hope that he was not one of the barons who fled the battle, deserting his kith and kin in the face of the enemy.) John, ninth Lord Maxwell, the eldest son of the nobleman who fell at Dryfe Sands, was only eight years of age at the time of his accession to his father's title and estates, in the year 1593. He, unfortunately, was heir not only to his paternal property and honors, but also to the long feud. (To be continued.)

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

Tulsa Scottish Games Lafortune Park Tulsa, OK	13 October
Military Band Tattoo Stone Mountain Park Atlanta, GA	18 October
Mother Lode Scots Tartan Ball Sutter Creek, CA	20 October
Stone Mountain Highland Games Stone Mountain Park Atlanta, GA	20-21 October
Ozark Highland Games Arkansas College Batesville, AR	27 October
Scottish Fair Broadway Armory Chicago, IL	27-28 October
Waxhaw Highland Games Waxhaw, SC	27 October
Pacific Highland Games Chino Fairgrounds Chino, CA	27-28 October

Salado Highland Games
Central Texas Area Museum Hall
Salado, TX

10-11 November

Campbelltown Highland Games
Orana Park
Campbelltown, Canada

17 November

Kirkin O' The Tartan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Cleveland Heights, OH

18 November

Southwest Florida Highland Games
Shell Factory
North Fort Myers, FL

7-8 December

Orlando Highland Games
Orlando, FL)

26 January

A reminder - If you haven't sent your 1984 dues to Rosemary,
please fill out the form below and mail it to her.

Until next time.

Aye,

Bill

-----CLIP HERE-----CLIP HERE-----

DUES FOR YEAR _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE and ZIP CODE _____

Please make your check payable to Clan Pollock. Dues are \$10.00
per year. Dues for the ensuing year are due each January.

Mail to: Rosemary Pollock
305 Edinburgh Drive
Cary, NC 27511