

The Pollag
November 2022

"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."

Pollock, Pollok, Pook, Polk, Polke, Paulk, Poalk, Poalke, Poulk, Poole, Pogue

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Audacter et Strenue
Boldly and Strongly

CLAN POLLOCK INTERNATIONAL

THE POLLAG

Cinnedah Pollag -- A Pool of Information

Words from the President...



Another year is drawing to a close. We hope you & your family are doing well and have had a good year.

Thanks to everyone who has helped Clan Pollock this year in any way. We especially appreciate our members who have hosted or helped with Clan Pollock tents at the Grandfather Mountain and Estes Park Scottish Games. Hard work but we hope, rewarding! And thanks to our members who have been able to attend Games this year. Despite the Covid setbacks since 2020, this year did see a return to a more normal schedule of events.

We would like to recognize our members who are Veterans – past and current. Thank you for your service! We also want to recognize our members who are health care workers and first responders. The past almost three years have been hard on everyone, but especially those in the health care field.

Please help out our able Pollag editor, Beth Avery, and her able assistant, Mike, with items of interest for our newsletter. The Averys do an excellent job of editing and printing the Pollag four times a year for our members. And if you change your mailing address or e-mail address, be sure and let us know so you don't miss any issues.

Our very best wishes for you and your family for a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

A. D. and Clara Ann Pollock

Written November 7, 2022

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Clan Pollock Web Site

<http://www.clanpollock.com/>

Clan Pollock Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/ClanPollock>

Pollag Deadline.

The deadline for submissions for the next issue of The Pollag is the 25th of the month previous to the issue. The Pollag is issued in February, May, August and November. Remember Clan Pollock members enjoy hearing your news. Send your news, to the editor, Beth Avery, at averyb@otherwhen.com

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

If you don't see your birthday listed, please let us know. We don't want to leave any of our members out. There are several newer members that we don't have birth dates for yet. Thanks. Clara Ann Pollock, Clan Pollock Secretary, apollockis@comcast.net

DECEMBER

5 – Rhett K. Pollock

7 – Beverly J. Oleson

10 – Nancy P. Haga; James R. Pollock

11 – Travis B. Scobey; O. Mark Poag

13 – Leonard Poage

14 – Billy F. Anderson

15 – James Pollock; W. Field Pollock; Geoffrey R. Pollock

16 – David A. Culbreath

18 – Rachel A. Hess; Denise T. Thomas

20 – David M. Barboza

23 – Howard W. Pollock; Roy V.H. Pollock

27 – Christopher Pollock

31 – Robert J. Pollock

JANUARY

1 – Paul D. Layman

5 – Charles A. Pollock

7 – Irene Fleming

8 – Susan P. Beavis; Barbara C. Lewis; Alex Pollock; Elva G. Pollock-Arnold

9 – John B. Pollock; Fred H. Pollock

11 – William K. Stevens; Linda L. Tiffany

15 – James (Jim) Poage

16 – Christine B. Halliwell; Robert P. Pollock

20 – Matthew D. Pollock

21 – Curtis J. Pogue

24 – Marcia P. Baker

26 – John C. Pollock III; Susan E. Strickland; Stephen J. Pollock

28 – Alexander J. Pollock

29 – Michael R. Sleight

FEBRUARY

8 – George D. Freeland

9 – Virginia T. Watson

14 – Debra A. Molnar

15 – Thomas W. Poague; Sheila H. Pollock

19 – John M. Pogue

20 – Revis A. Morton

24 – Milbry Polk

28 – Sally Brace

NEW MEMBERS

George D Freeland, Cedar Springs MI

John B Pollock, Morehead City NC

Milton B Pollock, Kalamazoo MI

LOOKING FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS?

How about a membership to Clan Pollock? Just print out the membership form at

<https://www.clanpollock.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/application.pdf> and let us know your giving a membership as a gift. Or use the form on page 7 of this newsletter.

In the spirit of St. Andrew's Day (Nov 30), we present the word of the day – Saltire



The cross which St. Andrew was crucified on was an X shape. This is also known as Saint Andrew's Cross, or the Saltire. This is Scotland's flag.

<https://www.facebook.com/100057546755002/posts/pfbid02jEJFBxAJv581o1f1Xcndtadsb51M1b9boeDSz4WLeXmbuVYvXdR9QTTjTafprf7ml/?sfnsn=mo>

FIND CLAN POLLOCK ON

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ClanPollock>

The Web: <https://www.clanpollock.com>

NEWS OF THE GAMES UPCOMING GAMES AND EVENTS

Hosting a Clan Pollock tent at your local games is a great way to get to know other Pollocks, Polloks, Pooks, Polks, Polkes, Paulks, Poalks, Poalkes, Poulks, Pooles, and Pogues. If you'd like to host a tent at an event contact our President, A.D. and he'll help you get started. A good place to look for games near you is <http://www.asgf.org>.

177th Annual St. Andrew's Day Gala "Feast of the Haggis"

Chicago History Museum

Chicago, IL

December 2, 2022

<https://chicagoscots.org/177th/>



Mark your calendars, Chicago's longest running black tie event "The Feast of the Haggis" is quickly approaching! Enjoy an evening of Scottish history, community & culture at the unique Chicago History Museum.

Central Florida Scottish Highland Games

January 14-15, 2023

<http://flascot.com/>

Calling all Clan Pollock members and friends to join in the festivities during these Games. The Games are one of the largest attended in the South, with recent years including over 70 clan tents.

1. Clan Pollock will be present both Saturday & Sunday with Clan Pollock Florida Commissioner, Brent DeSahzo family and friends will be manning the Clan Pollock tent. Make sure you join in on the daily marching of the clans

with our braw wee clan as well!! For more information, please contact Brent at clanpollockflorida@gmail.com or visit FlaScot.com for details on the Games.



St Louis Scottish Games & Cultural Festival

**Schroeder Park
Manchester, MO**

May 6, 2023

<https://www.facebook.com/STLScotGames/>



S T L O U I S
SCOTTISH GAMES
AND CULTURAL FESTIVAL

WV Wild & Wonderful Celtic Festival and Highland Games

Beverly, WV (USA)

June 17, 2023

<https://www.wvcelticfestandgames.com/>

GENEALOGIST CORNER

Not an article in this issue but a survey.

1. Are you using a genealogical software to record the history of your families? (for example I use RootsMagic8).
2. If no to #1, have you listed your history on Ancestry.com?
3. I have not listed my history on any source. Have you listed yours on any source?

Please send your answers to mr.richardhp@gmail.com

Richard H. Pollock,
Genealogist
Clan Pollock International



HISTORIAN'S CORNER

Alexander Hamilton's Desperate Youth

The megahit *Hamilton* has been playing nightly to packed crowds in New York since 2015 and is now touring the country. The play was inspired by the bestselling book of the same name by Ron Chernow, a lively account of a fascinating man who made profound contributions to our Republic in its formative years. The achievements of Hamilton are particularly remarkable in that he rose from almost total obscurity and penury to the heights of prominence by the sheer force of his character, intellect, and energy. He was, like Mozart or Newton or Shakespeare, a force of nature for which there is no particular explanation. Despite its tragic ending, his story can be seen as one of the first and greatest examples of the American dream.

What is not known to most Pollocks is that he was in fact a Pollock. Hamilton was a grandson of the Laird of the Hamilton family of Scotland, and also the great-grandson of Robert Pollock, the 17th, and perhaps most illustrious, of the Lairds of Pollock, who was made Baronet of Nova Scotia by Queen Anne in 1703. But the stark truth about Alexander Hamilton is that he came into the world a bastard with no inheritance, on a slave populated tropic island remote from his family origins, and was a penniless orphan at the age of fourteen, his only guardian dead by suicide. The story of Hamilton's humble beginning and ultimate fame is both a sober reminder of how quickly the privileged can fall and an inspired tale of how innate genius can rise to glory.

Alexander's father, James Hamilton (b.1718), was the fourth son of Alexander Hamilton, Laird of Grange in Ayrshire, and Elizabeth Pollock, granddaughter of the aforementioned Robert, Laird of Pollock. This aristocratic heritage would seem to have ensured James an easy and comfortable life, but in the custom of those times he actually had little claim on the family fortune, and was expected to find a gainful niche for himself in the world after a suitable gentleman's education. Indeed, his other brothers did meet with such success, but James appeared to have been the dark sheep in the family, of a rather indolent nature, and failed in almost every venture he undertook, including his schooling at the University at Glasgow. He made various attempts at amassing a quick fortune in the burgeoning economy of early eighteenth century Scotland but these invariably came to nothing, and he was regularly bailed out of indebtedness by his older brother, John, successor to the family title, and other associates.

In the face of these misadventures James was vulnerable to the lure of reputedly easy wealth to be made in the sugar plantations of the new world. In 1741 he headed for the West Indies, expecting to return a rich and respected merchant in a few years. But here too, James Hamilton met with little success and eventually became entrapped in a web of debt and declining prospects, with little hope of further rescue from home. By 1748 he was reduced to the position of a minor clerk on St. Kitts. In the midst of this increasingly dreary situation James began a relationship with a woman who had herself fallen rather precipitously in fortune and social status. Perhaps the two perceived a kindred fate in each other.

Rachel Faucette was the product of one failed marriage and the participant of another when she took up with James Hamilton in the early 1750's. Her father, John Faucette, had been a middle-class French Huguenot planter on the volcanic island of Nevis, and her mother, Mary Uppington, was an English woman who lived with Faucette, and had two children by him, before their formal marriage in 1715. Rachel was born circa 1729, the sixth of the eventual seven children. The Faucette's plantation on Nevis fell into difficulties due to crop failures and they moved to St. Croix in 1737. This and the early deaths of two children, plus an apparently basic incompatibility, took their toll on the relationship, and in 1740 John and Mary Faucette agreed to a permanent separation. She secured a marginal settlement and moved with Rachel, then 10 years old, to the nearby island of St. Kitts. Five years later John Faucette died, leaving Rachel as his sole legatee.

At the age of 15 Rachel was an attractive, vivacious young lady with a significant income, and a highly desirable match for single men on the rise. Unfortunately Rachel's mother forced her into a disastrous marriage with an unscrupulous roué, Johann Lavien, a Dane and possibly a Sephardic Jew, at least 12 years her senior. They lived on St. Croix and the marriage lasted a few years, producing one son, but Lavien soon frittered away the bulk of Rachel's inheritance and serious problems arose between them, ending in Rachel's abrupt departure from the household in 1750. Lavien, an inveterately spiteful man, availed himself of a little-used law against adultery to put Rachel into the squalid prison at Fort Christiansvaern for several months amongst the dregs of the island populace. Upon her release Rachel, clearly a headstrong lady and completely unrepentant, left directly for St. Kitts, abandoning Lavien, her child, and her fortune.

It was here that these two ill-starred individuals, on their respective downward spirals, met and commenced a fifteen-year common law union from which sprang Alexander Hamilton and his older brother, James. Alexander was born most likely in 1755, although some accounts have it as 1757. The years that followed were difficult financially for the family, with the father subsisting on clerical positions on Nevis and St. Croix until in 1765 he suddenly left, never to return. He spent the balance of his life meandering through progressively more demeaning circumstances, finally ending in a refuge for the indigent on the tiny island of Bequia at the far end of the Caribbean.

Four years after James Hamilton's departure, Alexander and his mother both took violently sick from a tropical fever, which he survived and she did not. A series of familial and legal crises followed, which Ron Chernow summarizes as follows: "Let us pause to tally the grim catalog of disasters that had befallen these two boys between 1765 and 1769: their father had vanished, their mother had died, their cousin and supposed protector had committed bloody suicide, and their aunt, uncle, and grandmother had all died. James sixteen, and Alexander, fourteen, were now left alone, largely friendless and penniless. At every step in their rootless, topsy-turvy existence, they had been surrounded by failed, broken, embittered people. Their short lives had been shadowed by a stupefying sequence of bankruptcies, marital separations, deaths, scandals, and disinheritance."

Not a hopeful picture, but somehow from out of this dark nadir of life, in just a handful of years, emerged the astonishing figure who became aide-de-camp of General Washington, principal author of the Federalist Papers, and visionary leader of an upstart nation in a land which at that moment he was barely aware of.

How are such things possible? Who can plumb the human spirit? Read the book.

John F. Polk, Ph.D.

Clan Historian

Clan Pollock

Nollaig Chrìdheil agus bliadhna mhath ur

Blythe yuil an a Happy New Year

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

*From
Clan Pollock*





Clan Pollock International Membership Application Form

The undersigned hereby applies for membership in Clan Pollock, subject to the supplying of any additional information deemed necessary by the Clan Council.

Full Name _____ E-mail _____

Street or P.O. Box _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

Business or Profession _____

Name of Spouse _____

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

Father's Name _____

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

Mother's Maiden Name _____

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

If father's or mother's surname is not Pollock/Polk/Pogue, etc., list the name and relationship to you of the person of that lineage with whom you have the closest kinship.

Enclosed is payment for this membership category (make check payable to Clan Pollock):

\$15 Annual Membership

I certify that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge and that I have knowledge of or belief that my Pollock/Polk/Pogue, etc. ancestors were of Scottish descent.

Signature _____

Send application to:

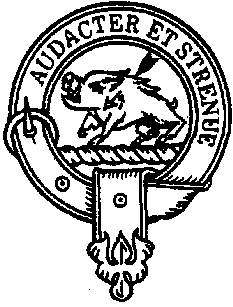
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Motto: *Boldly and Strongly*

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