

The Pollag
November 2023

"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...



As another year comes to an end, we hope you and your family are doing well.

We want to thank everyone who has helped Clan Pollock this year in any way but especially in hosting Clan Pollock tents at Scottish Games. Thanks to the DeShazio family for hosting the Central Florida Games in January. Thanks to the Anderson and Banks families for their hosting at Grandfather Mountain in July and to Denise and Mark Thomas for their hosting at the Estes Park Games in September.

Some of our long time members joined Clan Pollock before e-mail was so prevalent and still receive their Pollags by regular mail. That is fine but if you would consider receiving your copy by e-mail you would be helping us out. Postage and printing costs continue to rise. Just let us know your e-mail address and we'll set you up. Thanks!

Please help out our Pollag editor, Beth Avery and her able helper, 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, don't forget to let us know if you change your mailing or e-mail address. We don't want you to miss any issues.

We have had inquiries on places to visit in Scotland with Pollock/Pollok history. We have some good suggestions especially around the Glasgow area. Contact us and we will send you more information.

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 October 29, 2023

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averyb@otherwhen.com**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**DECEMBER**

5 – Rhett K. Pollock

7 – Beverly J. Oleson

10 – Nancy P. Haga; James R. Pollock

11 – Travis B. Scobey

13 – Leonard Poage

14 – Billy F. Anderson

15 – James Pollock;

16 – David A. Culbreath

18 – Denise T. Thomas; Rachel A. Hess

20 – David M. Barboza

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

27 – Christopher Pollock

31 – Robert J. Pollock

JANUARY

1 – Paul D. Layman

7 – Irene Fleming

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

9 – Fred H. Pollock; John B. 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 Baker

25 – Elizabeth G. Anastasia

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

28 – Alex J. Pollock

29 – Michael R. Sleight; Kristin-Diane Pollock

FEBRUARY

8 – Sally Patterson; Sally Patterson

9 – Virginia T. Watson

15 – Thomas W. Poage; Sheila H. Pollock

19 – John M. Pogue; Mark P. Pollock; Christine Boozer

20 – Revis A. Morton

24 – Milbry Polk

28 – Sally Brace

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

NEW MEMBERS

Jeff Belmont, Pound Ridge NY

Patricia Pollock Brodsky, East Cleveland Ohio

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

Our sympathy to the family of longtime Clan Pollock member Paula C. Sharp who passed away on May 9, 2023 in Jacksboro, Texas.

FIND CLAN POLLOCK ON

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

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

NEWS OF THE GAMES

Reports of the Games and Events

Brent and Linh DeShazo at the Andrew's Society of Central Florida Burns Dinner



Estes Park 2023



Matt & Vicki Pollock
Denise & Mark Thomas
Mark & Diane Pollock
Chris Pollock

Bill Stevens



UPCOMING GAMES AND EVENTS

LOOK FOR THE CLAN POLLOCK TENT AT:

Central Florida Scottish Highland Games
January 13-14, 2024

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



OTHER GAMES: Attend this year and think about hosting a Clan Pollock tent at one of these in the future. Contact A.D. for information on how to host a tent.

Florida Keys Celtic Festival

January 6-7, 2024

Marathon, FL.

[Http://floridakeyscelticfestival.com](http://floridakeyscelticfestival.com)

Havre de Grace Winter Celtic Festival

Jan 12 - 15, 2023

<https://hdgburnsgathering.org>

Tallahassee Highland Games

February 3-4, 2024

[Https://www.Tallyhighlandgames.com](https://www.Tallyhighlandgames.com)

Sarasota Highland Games

Feb 3, 2024

<http://sarasotahighlandgames.com>

GENEALOGY TREE

Two suggested sites for your research:

GenealogyBank

You can access old US Newspapers by name, state, date range. I found several articles about my great grandfather that I didn't know existed. Very easy to use. I paid \$48/annum for the service.

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

ScotlandsPeople

Historian John Polk has used this site for his Scottish studies. The site is maintained by the National Records Office of Scotland and provides digital copies of all the records they have -----birth, marriage, and death by specific name. It is a free site unless you want to download copies of the records for which you must pay a small fee. You have to register. <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/advanced-search>.

Richard H. Pollock,
Genealogist
Clan Pollock International

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

Mystery Pollok Gravestone and the Silk Industry of Scotland

A question came to Clan Pollock recently asking what we might know about a John Pollok whose gravestone was on the enquirer's property outside Charlottesville, Virginia. The inscription on the stone reads as follows:

*Sacred to the memory of
John Pollok
Writer to the Signet
And Manager of the
Commercial Bank of Scotland
Born in Glasgow
18th January 1783
Resided in Edinburgh
And died at this place
26th April 1817*



A couple of things are immediately notable about this John Pollok. For one, his status as a "Writer of the Signet." This may not be meaningful to us today but it was very significant in Scotland at that time. It designated someone authorized to affix the Royal Seal of the King of Scots to legal documents in Scotland, thereby making them official. Few people were so empowered. Those who were became members of the Society of Writers of the Signet, which dates back to 1594, and entitled to append the letters **WS** to their names to designate their status. John Pollok was admitted to the Society in 1807.

The other remarkable item noted on John Pollok's gravestone was that he was Manager of the Commercial Bank of Scotland. In fact, he was the first manager, and a director of the bank upon its establishment in 1810. The bank was itself a remarkable institution, still in existence today as one of the constituent banks merged into the Royal Bank of Scotland.

So how on earth did John Pollok, WS, end up dying in a remote part of Virginia just a few years later, only 34 years old? The short answer is silkworms!

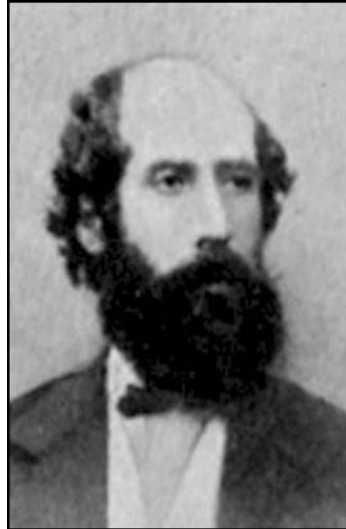
It turned out that he was not at all successful as a bank manager and soon fell into disfavor with the other officers. As the centennial history of the bank puts it: "His disregard of instructions, and inattention to business, irregular attendance, and disagreeable relations with the other officials, retarded the prosperity of the Bank, and rendered his further retention of office undesirable. In June 1812 he resigned." In retribution he brought legal suits against the bank for the rest of his short life.

John Pollok clearly came from a wealthy family or would not have achieved such positions of status in the first place. The business of his branch of the Pollok family was linen fabrics. The Polloks of the Paisley area had been fabric merchants for some generations going back to the early 1700s. There is quite a story here but it will have to be left for another telling, Suffice it to note that the small firm of Kerr and Pollok on Shuttle Street, Paisley, was making fine quality linen gauzes, lawns and checkered handkerchiefs in 1738. By 1745 their warehouse and weaving shops were valued at **£1200**, an impressive sum in those times. The business grew steadily and in 1782 Alexander Pollok and David Findley had a fabrication facility on Abbey Street operating 20 mule jennies (spinning machines) driven by water power, accommodating 3000 spindles. Paisley became a leading center of fashionable fabrics and garments renowned to this day. Readers are no doubt familiar with Paisley scarves and neckties. The machinery and skills developed in fabricating fine linen were extensive and sophisticated and this technology base was a key element underlying the great industrial revolution of 19th century Scotland.

There was a never-ending desire to produce more and finer fabrics, particularly silk. The Chinese were of course the main producers of silk at the time and had a practical monopoly on the business. Merchants in Europe naturally began to explore the possibility of producing their own silk, not just weaving cloth, but raw silk, i.e., silkworm cocoons. Silkworms subsist exclusively on mulberry leaves. This created a need to find areas appropriate for mulberry farms and is what led John Pollok to Virginia. Not just John but three of his brothers, Robert, Allan and James. The family had clearly decided to move into silk fabrication. Just why they decided to focus on Virginia is not clear but the possibility of slave labor may have been a consideration. In any case Allan and James purchased land near Danville VA, and took initial steps for cultivating mulberry tree farms. John ventured into the Albemarle County area further north.



The Goven Silk Works, Glasgow, 1900



Morris Pollok (1786-1862), brother of John
Founder of Goven Silk Works

Sadly, it all proved to be a very unhappy undertaking. Three of the sons Robert, Allan (Jr.) and John, died within a few years, as did their father, Allan Pollok (Sr.), all dead by 1817. I have no details as to the circumstances of their deaths but John Pollok died in Yancey's Mill VA where the pictured gravestone is found, and Allan (Jr.) died near Richmond.

John F. Polk, Ph.D.
Clan Historian
Clan Pollock International

Dictionaries of the Scots Language

DSL Online version 3.0

<https://dsl.ac.uk/dsl-v3/>

Dictionaries of the Scots Language Online provides free access to [The Scottish National Dictionary](#) (SND) and [A Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue](#) (DOST). First published during the twentieth century, their 12,000 pages in 22 volumes provide a remarkable record of the language, history, culture and traditions of the Scots-speaking people. By sharing these dictionaries online we allow their contents to be enjoyed far and wide.

The conversion of two enormous print dictionaries into searchable, digital editions was an incredibly challenging project, and their publication online in 2004 was just the beginning. Since then we have focused on addressing problems stemming from the dictionaries' print-based origins and improving their online interface. We published our first major batch of corrections and improvements in 2014 and are delighted to announce a second batch as from 26 April 2022. The main changes introduced by this second update are:

- All supplementary material is now integrated with the dictionaries' original entries.
- We now say when each entry was first published and whether it incorporates supplementary material.
- Thousands of corrections and minor edits have been implemented.
- All references to 'next' or 'preceding' entries have been replaced by hyperlinks to the relevant entries.
- There is easier access to the explanations of abbreviations and symbols.
- The maximum number of search results displayed is increased to 500 and the total number of results is now shown.
- Dates have been added to thousands of quotations in DOST.
- Hundreds of sources cited but not listed in SND have been added to the bibliography.

Thanks to a new editing platform, we look forward to publishing updates more frequently in future.

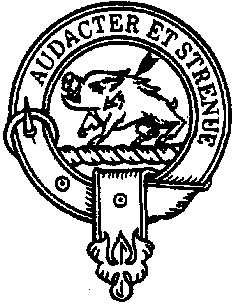


Clan Pollock International

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Motto: Boldly and Strongly

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Nollaig chridheil agus Bliadhna mhath ur!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!