



The

# Guardian

A Quarterly Publication of the Clan Wallace Society

AUTUMN 2015

ESTABLISHED IN 1966.

VOL 49, NUMBER 3

## President's Message

## Fàilte !



*President Lawrence and Judith Slight*

Greetings! The summer of 2015 is here and going. As you are able to see in this Newsletter, the Clan Wallace Society is well into the year's Festivals and Games. There are many examples of our participation in the various events across the US and Canada. I recommend that each member plan to visit the Wallace tent at these festivals and join in the fun.

The Society sent out this year's nomination letters for the four Board positions between July 15th and 30th. The nomination process has produced one nomination for reelection and two brand new nominations for the remaining three positions. Due to the fact that there were only three nominations for the four positions, there is no requirement to hold an election. Since I was the only current Board member up for reelection to be nominated, I am honored to serve on the Board for another three years. My term as the Society President finishes up this year and I look forward to being able to assist our next President as a Board member.

I have the pleasure of introducing our two new Board members and am

happy to report that these two have decided to help in the operation of the Society. These members are Randy Dedrickson of South Carolina and Robert Amos Wallace IV of Oklahoma. They will be validated and installed in Office for the terms of 2016-2018 at the Annual Business Meeting in Laurinburg, NC on October 2nd. All members are invited to join the Society Board of Directors then to meet and greet our two new Board members.

Ms. JoAnne MacIntosh and her committee began the planning for our 50th Year Gathering that will be held in Salado, TX, which was the Festival where our Society was founded in 1966. A preliminary announcement is on page 2. Further information will be provided as it becomes available.

As this is my last note to the Society as President, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for being allowed to be your President. Over the last three years, I have had the honor of leading the Society in our many endeavors.

There have been some disappointments but I have always tried to promote the wellbeing of the Society and look forward to the next three years on the Board of Directors with great expectations. I hope to provide our next President with as much support as I can. It is my wish that all Society members have a safe and enjoyable rest of the year.

Pro Libertate,

*Larry.*

Lawrence Slight, President  
The Clan Wallace Society

On behalf of Ian Francis Wallace of that Ilk, 35th Chief of Clan Wallace; Acting Chief Andrew R. Wallace, Younger of that Ilk; and the President and the Board of Directors, we welcome the five individuals listed below to the fellowship ranks of the Clan Wallace Society.

### Annual Membership

**James Pelletier**  
Enumclaw, WA

**Donald C. Wallace**  
San Carlos, CA

**Lisa Reddick**  
Tigard, OR

**Nancy Wallis Meader**  
Lake Oswego, OR

**Nathaniel Kelly Griffke**  
Shoreline, WA



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## Famous (or infamous) Wallaces



### Elizabeth Virginia Wallace

Submitted by Wayne Jones

Elizabeth Virginia Wallace (Bess) Truman (2/1885–10/1982) was the daughter of David Willock Wallace (1860–1903), and his wife, the former Margaret Elizabeth Gates (1862–1952). Born in Independence, Missouri, she

was known as Bessie during her childhood. She was the eldest of four and had three brothers: Frank Gates Wallace, (1887-1960); George Porterfield Wallace (1892-1963), and; David Frederick Wallace, (1900-1957).

After graduating from Independence High School, she studied at Miss Barstow's Finishing School for Girls in Kansas City, Missouri. In 1903 her father committed suicide and she returned to Independence to be with her mother.

She had known her future husband since they attended the same school in Independence from the fifth grade through high school. She married Harry S. Truman in June 18, 1919. As the wife of President Truman, she was the First Lady of the United States from 1945 to 1953. As First Lady, she did not enjoy big social events, and was very relieved to quit Washington. Dying at 97, she remains the longest-lived First Lady.

*This is an example of information available in The Clan Wallace, Fourth Edition.*

## Clan Wallace 50th Anniversary

The Clan Wallace Society 50th Anniversary Gathering will be held at the birth place of the Society; Salado, Texas. The Gathering will coincide with the annual Salado Scottish Clan Gathering and Highland Games on November 11th through the 13th, 2016.

Since the Salado festival committee was aware of the significance of Salado to the CWS and our impending anniversary, they had previously chosen CWS to be the Honored Clan for 2016. This will further contribute to the celebration.

Planning is in the early stages but it may not be too soon to begin your personal travel plans. Salado is located North of Austin TX and South of Belton TX. Members who will be fly-

**BIG 50**

ing to the location can use one of two airports: Austin-Bergstrom (AUS), 50 miles South of Salado, and Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport (GRK), which is 21 miles Northwest of Salado.

More details on the Gathering will be made available in future Newsletters and on the CWS website as they are developed.



## News From Our Convenors



*Tommy Bureson and Russ Harper*

### 60th Annual Grandfather Mountain Highland Games

By Marcia Harper

The Grandfather Mountain Highland Games (NC) was held on July 7 - 10, 2015. Sunshine and high winds greeted the 85 clan tents participating and Clan Wallace was among them. Also at the games were the Scottish Tartan Museum, Council of Scottish Clans and Associations and Scottish Culture, St. Andrews Society of Upper South Carolina, and the Society of William Wallace. Russ and Marcia Harper hosted the Clan Wallace tent along with help from our Granddaughter Megan Fischer, and Joyce Jones from Texas.

These games are held at MacRae Meadow on Grandfather Mountain, North Carolina. Thursday night Russ did the calling of, the Clan. Wallaces cheered as he yelled, "FREEDOM!!"

Lots of Wallaces attended this weekend activities, Megan Fischer, Glen Wolfe, Mary Jo Hutchinson, William Wallace, Mark Clifford, Linda Tyrell and

her granddaughter Samantha, Nelson Long, John and Sally Wallace, Randy Dedrickson, Frank Randall and Joyce Jones along with many more.

We had a special guest stop by our tent to hold the Wallace sword, Tommy Bureson, 7 foot 2 inches. Tommy is a former pro basketball player for the Atlanta Hawks. The Wallace sword is just shy of 6 foot. It looks like he is holding a toothpick. Russ is 6 foot 2 and is standing next to Tommy.

The 2015 Bear Run, part of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, started in Linville Thursday night and concluded at the top of Grandfather Mountain. Over 730 runners started the race and ranged in age from 7 to 77.

For the first time at Grandfather Mountain, we had women athletes competing in the games. Amy Jenkins proudly wears the Wallace green when she competes. Go Amy!!!!

Our thanks to all that came out and enjoy the weekend with us. Special thanks to Mark Clifford for renewing his membership and to Randy Dedrickson for upgrading from Life member-

ship to Council membership. Our photographer for the weekend was Joyce Jones. Without YOU there is no Clan Wallace. Can't wait to see you all next year!

### Celtic Festival and Highland Games

By Bob Wallace

The 5th Celtic Festival and Highland Games took place over the weekend of June 13 and 14 at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds in Newport on Oregon's central coast.

Entertainment featured The Fire Inside, based in Issaquah, Washington; Cleghorn, from the Dallas, Texas area; and Brother, from Ashland, Oregon. Several performances by individuals or groups of two or three at a time performed inside the main building on the grounds, providing an alternative venue to the large stage outside where the weather was invigorating!

Friday kicked the weekend off with several events, including an evening concert at the main stage. This being still a relatively small festival, only one



*Joyce Jones, Mary Jo Hutchinson, Samantha Matterson; Randy Dedrickson Marcia Harper, Linda Tyrell, Glen Wolfe, and Russ in back.*



*Scots Guard Newport; Bill and Ada Wallace, Lois and Bob Wallace, and Norma and Bill Wallace.*

pipe band made an appearance on Saturday, that largely to lead the Parade of Clans just behind the Northwest Scots Guards presenting the colors, the Guard commanded by Clan Wallace Society member Bill Wallace of Gresham, Oregon. In addition to the Newport Celtic Festival, the Northwest Scots Guards perform at venues throughout the Pacific Northwest.

About a dozen clan tents were located around the grounds, although Clan Wallace was not one of them this year; we six were here to enjoy the festival and the coast: Bill and Norma from Bend, OR; Bill and Ada from Gresham, OR; Bob and Lois from wherever we park our fifth-wheel trailer, that week at South Beach State Park, just across the bridge over Yaquina Bay from Newport. While the festival was over by late Sunday afternoon, it was Tuesday mid-morning before several of us had gone our way along the coast in one direction or another. Lois and I held off our departure until Thursday, but did manage a day trip to the Coos Bay/North Bend area on Wednesday.

Heavy athletics were to be found at the far north end of the fairgrounds; anyone interested in seeing what was going on nearly needing to be an athlete to get from the main portion of the fairgrounds to where the athletic events were taking place. In between, the sheepdog handling in a small arena demonstrated how dogs and

sheep interact, the dogs typically given direction by whistle commands.

### **Kerr County Celtic Festival and Highland Games**

By Frank Wallace Leslie

The Kerr County Celtic Festival & Highland Games was held at Point Theater, Ingram, TX on August 15th & 16th, 2015, and Clan Wallace Society (CWS) was there! This was the first, and hopefully not the last, Kerr County Celtic Festival & Highland Games.

Although the weather was hot, the humidity was relatively low with the Guadalupe River close by. Lynne and I participated in the opening parade and



*Frank Wallace Leslie at Kerr County, TX.*

ceremony on Saturday. Numerous people dropped by to look at what we had on display and find their clan home areas on the Clan Map of Scotland posted at the tent. Several folks of Wallace affiliation stopped by and took membership information. No current CWS members stopped by.

Various activities and sanctioned heavy athletics took place throughout the area. Saturday Night a Ceilidh was held in the Gazebo Lounge at Inn of the Hills Hotel in Kerrville. We provided a fifth of Glenfiddich 12 year old Single Malt scotch for the Ceilidh, where a good time was had by all!

Sunday was another hot day with low humidity. The various activities of Saturday continued on Sunday. A Barbershop Quartet called Unfinished Business, wandered throughout the area and sang at several of the Clan tents. We plan to be there next year for their second annual festival next year.

### **The 69th Annual Scottish Highland Games and Clan Gathering**

By Norma Wallace and Jennifer Pelletier

Scotland came to the Pacific Northwest on July 24, 25 and 26, 2015 in Enumclaw, WA. Clan Wallace had the most enthusiastic couple, Jim and Jennifer





*Bob and Lois Wallace, Jim and Jennifer Pelletier, and Norma and Bill Wallace*

Pelletier, convening at these games. It is refreshing to see a family starting on the journey of setting up the Wallace tent with such attention to detail and statements like, "We want to do this right to make CWS proud." Due to logistics and health of conveners in the area, they have not had the mentorship that new conveners deserve. Well, Bob & Lois Wallace and Bill & Norma Wallace hopefully gave the right amount of help and guidance. We all had fun at the tent and took turns "manning" the tent so that the other couples could enjoy all the event's activities.

There were three stages of music and Scottish Country Dancing all day long. One of the bands, Men of Worth, invited Bobby Ries, son of Life member Ed Ries, onto the stage to play the Bodhran with them. Twelve Pipe bands were there competing. Awards for the season were given out at the closing ceremony; and then thunder, lightning and a deluge of rain. Glad that the rain held off for the awards but if it could have held out just a bit longer. Everyone would not have gotten drenched. The Clan Wallace tent was still standing so the Crawford Clan took refuge with us. The least we could do for our "cousins". The relationship with

the Crawfords gets stronger every year in Enumclaw.

In addition to the usual vendors and activities, the Celtic Dogs had an event of their own not far from our tent. The many breeds of Celtic dogs had obedience, agility and herding competitions and demonstrations.

This was our (Jen & Jim's) third and best year convening the Enumclaw Games. Much of the credit goes to Bill and Norma, and Bob and Lois Wallace for their helping and caring contributions. Can you imagine having TWO past presidents of CWS available to you and visitors for three days? We were honored to say the least. The



*Bobby Ries playing the Bodhran at Enumclaw, WA*

biggest "plus" was the ability to go out and enjoy the Games! Perfect Scottish weather accompanied our 69th Annual Gathering. As always, the fine people, the scrumptious food and the traditional (and sometimes not so traditional...read Wicked Tinkers) music was tremendous. Five of the competing pipe bands went on to the World Championships.

There were over 50 people who signed the CWS visitors log and two members joined on the spot. Quite a few marched with us on both Saturday and Sunday. Smiles and hugs; goose bumps and tears at Amazing Grace; family members well met, and new relationships formed. Hope to see you all at the 70th Annual Gathering next year.

## **Fergus Festival and Highland Games**

By Dorothy Knight

The 70th annual Fergus Festival and Highland Games, August 7-9, 2015, welcomed an enthusiastic and exciting crowd this year. It certainly was "Scotland...without the airfare." The festivities actually began Thursday evening with venues in the downtown area, beginning with a Pipes, Plaid and Pageantry Parade. Various establishments featured entertainment thru the afternoon and evening. A historical walking tour was featured in the afternoon as well. Friday evening however, was the official opening of the festival



*Dorothy Knight, cousin Beverly Rock, daughter Norma Jean Weaver, and Marianne and Terry Wallace at Fergus, ON.*

with the famous tattoo. The tattoo was opened with Tommy Leadbeater as the MC. The Scheihallion Dancers, dressed in all the provincial tartans of Canada, with a backdrop of the Provincial flags, danced a "Salute to the 50th Anniversary of Canada's flag". That was so impressive!

Thirty-two (32) clans participated in the Salute to the Homeland and Clan Parade. The highlight of the evening was the highly anticipated performance and music of the Scottish group "The Red Hot Chilli Pipers"...straight from Scotland "to rock your kilts off." They call their music Bagrock! The evening concluded with colourful fireworks.

The avenue of the clans opened early Saturday morning, featuring 32 clan tents. In the grand parade, Clan Wallace was represented by 4 members. Clan McNichol won the "best clan tent" award. The famous caber toss won the Guinness World Record for 69 cabers tossed simultaneously. Highland dancing, Heavy Events, Tug o' War, Pipes and Drum competitions ruled the day. Clan Wallace Society trophy was won by 14 year old Gavin MacKay of the Pairs-Port Dover Pipes and Drums. This was Gavin's 2nd time winning the trophy. He also received a personal plaque and a Certificate of Achievement from Clan Wallace Society. Gavin started playing at the age of six.

display featuring an exhibit of Col. John MacCrea. Col. MacCrea wrote the poem "In Flanders Fields". Massed Bands and awards closed Saturday's activities.

Extra events were added to Sunday's agenda, geared for families; clogging, McKiddies tent, McHeavies and dancing were quite popular. Kirkin' o' the Tartan was held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church with strupak - (that's tea and scones) and fellowship.



*Dorothy Knight, Gavin MacKay, and David Radley, Festival President.*

## Portland Highland Games

By Norma Bea Wallace and Bob Wallace

The Portland Highland Games were held at Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham, OR on July 17 and 18, 2015. Almost immediately, there was an SOS

Multiple activities took place in the Heritage tent featuring, sheep shearing, rope making, horse-shoeing, quilting, weaving and spinning to name a few. Storyteller Shamus Gunn enthralled everyone with his Scottish stories of the thistle, spider and wild haggis. Also in the

Heritage tent from the Guelph Civic Museum, was a

when Freddie Wallace, registered convener, could not continue. Among other things, he was assaulted just before bringing the tent and display material to the Games site. We wish him the best of luck in the future and hope he is OK. Past President Bill & wife Norma Wallace from Bend, OR and Past President Bob & wife Lois Wallace (full time RVers), were chatting and were expecting to help Freddie at the festival. They answered the SOS call instead, sitting in the tent and greeting guests throughout the day. Bill and his wife Ada also helped the SOS conveners.

Clan tents are on an upper field with a few vendors, one entertainment tent and the Heavy athletics. All other activities are down a steep walk to the stadium where the opening ceremonies were held. Inside the field house with other vendors was another CWS Wallace member. Yes, Ed Ries, author of a series of books beginning with Legacy of Honor, was there for a book signing. He and his wife Elaine attended all the way north from Escondido, CA.

A valiant group of Wallaces made a good showing in the Parade of Clans. It was a very hot day on Saturday, but there was a reasonable breeze for much of the day from various directions. However, a gust came later in the afternoon and overturned one of the tents next to us. Fortunately no one hurt.

The Portland group had a very good turnout, including what must have been hundreds in the grandstand for the Parade of Clans at High Noon. We ended up with about ten folks marching with us. Oriol Sole-Costa walked on crutches after having an ankle replacement, Nancy Wallis, at that time the newest member of CWS, marched with her daughter Rachael.

After the parade Lisa Reddick joined CWS, so in the afternoon she was the newest member. We were happy that other Wallace families marched with us so that when they announced us our Freedom yell could be heard throughout the stadium. That is when we





*Clan Wallace marches in the Parade of Clans at the Portland (OR) Highland Games.*

passed the most impressive Color Guard, The Northwest Scots Guards, standing at attention (commanded by William S. Wallace of Gresham).

### 18th Annual Taste of Scotland Festival

By Marcia Harper

Grennier (she is 93 years young and very proud of her Wallace roots.) She was accompanied by fam-ily, Ben and Jean Swafford and Paul and Linda Armes. She was the hit of the parade.

The entertainment was by the Juniper Trio, Raven and Red, Caledonia Swing and My Three Kilts.

Thanks to all that came out to enjoy the day with us.



*Bob Wallace, Elaine Ries, Nancy Wallis and daughter Rachael, and Lois Wallace.*

Mary Wallace Kelsey manned the tent so we could all participate in the parade. The Clan Crawford convener, Terry Pea, helped in many ways and went above and beyond taking the tent to the Enumclaw Games next week.

Thank you to all who marched and visited the tent for your wonderful participation.

The 18th Annual Taste of Scotland Festival is held on June 20, 2015 in the small mountain town of Franklin nestled in the Black Mountains of North Carolina. Founded by the Scottish Tartan Society of Scotland, Franklin can boast of having the largest Scottish Tartans Museum in the world, with kilts dating back to c. 1800, tartan specimens dating back to c. 1725, and over 500 tartan samples representing clans, families, districts and other organizations.

The rain showers experienced on and off all day greeted five clans, and Wallace was among them. Russ and I hosted the clan tent.

The Parade of Tartans was held at noon and we had local Wallaces join us. Leading the way was Ms. Nannie Wallace



*Nannie Wallace Grennier (93 years young), Ben and Jean Swafford, Linda and Paul Armes, Russ and Marcia Harper.*



## 20th Anniversary of "Braveheart" Celebrated

### Stirling in September

The National Wallace Monument in Stirling, one of Scotland's top tourist attractions, marked the 20th anniversary of Braveheart's release this September with a weekend of events and activities from 3rd - 7th of September, including a special screening of the Academy Award winning film.

Kicking off the weekend of events, on 3rd September, the Monument has teamed up with Macrobert Arts Centre for two exclusive screenings of the Oscar winning film.

Celebrations will then continue at the distinctive landmark, built to commemorate the famous warrior William Wallace, with a weekend of activities, performances and exclusive offers.

Children visiting the Monument can immerse themselves in history and dress up in medieval costumes, and they can also pick up some advice and tips on swordsmanship.

Braveheart Moments will see classic scenes from the film recreated in live presentations by costumed actors (3rd - 7th), whilst other activities will include face painting for children, (5th-6th), competitions and quizzes for everyone visiting the Monument (3rd - 7th), an archery event (6th) and selfie opportunities with Braveheart Bear (3rd - 7th).

Ken Thomson from Stirling District Tourism said: "Twenty years since it hit the cinema screens, Braveheart is still as popular as ever. Since 1995 it has prompted thousands of people to make their way to Stirling to discover for themselves the story of William Wallace, his life and legacy.

"This anniversary provides the ideal opportunity to mark the enduring popularity and appeal of the film and remind visitors from home and abroad just what's on offer at The National Wallace Monument."

As always, visitors can also explore the magnificent Monument itself where the



the story of Wallace's life is told in three galleries, one of which features his legendary battle sword. An impressive 246 steps can be climbed to reach the top of the Monument, where visitors can stand in the 'crown' and take in the breathtaking 360-degree view of central Scotland and the Highlands to the north.

A top visitor attraction, The National Wallace Monument features the newly refurbished Legends Coffee House, free car parking and a Gift Shop stocking Braveheart souvenirs and gifts, including the recently launched Braveheart Bear.

### National Wallace Monument

The National Wallace Monument is managed and operated by Stirling District Tourism Limited. The Monument was opened in 1869 to commemorate the life of the Scottish patriot and martyr Sir William Wallace and attracts over 100,000 visitors each year.

A registered charity, Stirling District Tourism receives no funding from external sources, and is reliant on income from donations and admission fees to maintain and operate the

Monument. In 2014 the Monument underwent a £350,000 refurbishment programme, which equipped the three exhibition galleries with new displays, interpretation, and audio-visual systems. A further investment during 2015 included a refurbishment of Legends Coffee House.

In a recent visitor survey undertaken at the Monument, the film Braveheart was identified by over 35% of participants as having influenced their decision to visit Stirling.

In 1996 Braveheart won 5 Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Director. The film grossed £109 million at the box office, and in Scottish cinemas it played for up to 8 months after the initial launch.

Prior to the launch of Braveheart, annual visitors to the Monument were in the region of 80,000 per annum and by 1998 they had reached 184,265. For the 10-year period from 1996 to 2005 the average of annual number of visitors to the Monument was 135,000 and it has remained above the 100,000 level during subsequent years.

The National Wallace Monument is open all year (except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day). During September 2015 the Monument will be open each day from 10.00am until 5.00pm.





## Five of Scotland's Most Haunted Places



*Reprinted with permission of [The Scotsman Publication Ltd.](#)*

Could Scotland be one of the world's most haunted nations? It's certainly had a history bloody and savage enough to be a contender. Murder, war, disease and cruelty underpin sightings, real or imagined, of ghosts in some of the country's most famous castles, thoroughfares and tourist attractions. Here are five of Scotland's most notoriously ghoulish spots.

### The Royal Mile, Edinburgh

One of Scotland's most reputedly haunted places, Edinburgh's Royal Mile nevertheless pulls in so many tourists each year - many of whom come to see the street's numerous ghost tours and attractions - that you start to wonder who's more scared of who. Mary King's Close is one of the city's most famously haunted areas, which was shut off after plague overcame the street and its residents.

The most common ghost story relating to the Mile itself concerns the Death Coach, an apparently driverless carriage drawn by flaming headless horses seen on the eve of some sort of disaster. Similar tales of Death Coach sightings exist in Irish folklore, where sightings of the carriage are a sure sign of someone's impending death. To return to Scots folklore, the coach on the Mile is said to

have been linked to Major Thomas Weir, a one-time respected military officer who revealed himself to be partial to incest, bestiality and witchcraft. After his execution, the coach became, in the eyes of some, his de facto public transport.

### Culloden Moor, Inverness-shire

The Battle of Culloden was the last pitched battle fought in Scotland, and it was also one of the bloodiest. The conflict ended the Jacobite rebellion, extinguished the Stuart claim to the British throne, and sent Bonnie Prince Charlie, who led the Jacobites to battle, into eventual exile in France. Up to 2,000 Jacobites died on the moor with the odds stacked against them, as well as the wind and the rain.

With Culloden's bloody history, there are bound to be a few scare stories that do the rounds: birds are said not to sing near the graves of the fallen on the field; 'anniversary ghosts' are said to arrive on the site of the battle on April 16 to reenact the clashes; broadswords can appar-

ently be heard swinging against each other. Most frightening of all is the Great Scree of Culloden, a spectral black bird apparently sighted by a Jacobite commander on the eve of battle (it turned out, of course, to be a pretty bad omen). It makes the occasional cameo on the moor, and it gives bad luck to any poor sod who comes across it.

### Glamis Castle, Angus

Glamis Castle is a storied fortress with an ensemble cast of spirits with scary names and ailments: Lord Beardie, the Grey Lady, and a woman without a tongue, among others. Situated on lands that have belonged to the Bowes-Lyons family since the 14th century (they were given the land by one Robert the Bruce - you might have heard of him), Glamis Castle is the birthplace of Princess Margaret, and was written about by Shakespeare in *MacBeth*.

The most famous story of Glamis Castle is about Earl Beardie, otherwise known as Alexander, Earl Crawford, who, by all accounts, was a pretty horrible guy. The story goes that he ended up screaming the castle down in a drunken rage as he searched out a partner to play cards with. A man knocked on the door and asked the Earl if he was still searching for an opponent, and the two men sat down to play. Sometime later, the Earl left the room reprimanded a peeping





servant, who lost an eye after peeping through the keyhole. After returning, the Earl found the man he'd been playing with was missing - and had taken his soul with him. Apparently he'd wagered it, and had unknowingly invoked the

came slum dwellings for the city's poorest once businesses packed up and left their leaking premises. When you take regular sightings of spirits into account, then the vaults may really be one of the scariest places in the country. It was also, seemingly, tailor-made to be haunted.

By the turn of the 19th century the vaults were just a few years away from being completely abandoned; in one of the many nadirs of the vaults' history, Burke and Hare reportedly prowled these makeshift slums for potential victims. Another story has it that the first person to cross South Bridge, a part of the greater structure of the vaults, ended up in a coffin a few days later. Quite apart from misfortune or bad omens, many others would have died from living in the abysmally unsanitary conditions in the vaults. This is perhaps why no specific, famous ghost stories have emerged from the vaults. Various television crews of the Living.TV variety have visited the vaults for low-hanging spectral fruit, which there seems to be plenty of.

### Fyvie Castle, Aberdeenshire

Fyvie Castle has passed through various families since it was built in 1211, but has belonged to the National Trust for the last 30 years. Fyvie Castle's ghost

problems have been public record quite recently - Robert Lovie, a caretaker for the historic building said as recently as two years ago that "strange and unexplainable things happen here regularly... objects move and sometimes disappear altogether." The majority of spiritual sightings stem from two long-dead women, Lady Meldrum and Dame Lillias Drummond, known as the Grey Lady and the Green Lady respectively.

Lady Meldrum's remains were, as per her request, locked in a secret room. This room was disturbed in 1920 by workmen renovating the castle, who found her remains. Lady Meldrum had reputedly placed a curse on anyone who entered the room, and hauntings connected to her have been reported ever since.

Dame Lillias Drummond was reportedly starved to death by her husband Sir Alexander Seton, who wanted to marry her cousin. Her name is scratched upside-down from outside on the window sill of where Seton and his new wife slept. It is said that Seton and his new wife heard scratches and deep moanings in their room, and found the carving the next morning. The Green Lady has been seen by visitors and guests of the castle for over 250 years, and she is often said to leave a floral smell behind her.



Devil by earlier vowing that he'd play the Devil himself for the sake of a game.

A secret room is also widely suspected to be somewhere within the castle walls. Chillingly, the 13th Earl of Strathmore, Claude Bowes-Lyon, once said: "If you could even guess the nature of this castle's secret you would get down on your knees and thank God it was not yours." It was speculated that the secret room contained a prisoner. A collage of stories paint a picture of a disfigured person who may or may not have been the son of the 11th Earl of Strathmore, or the offspring of his son Lord Glamis.

### Edinburgh Vaults

The vaults deep beneath Edinburgh's picturesque, cobbled exterior are, because of their location, inherently uninviting. A deep, dark and damp warren of stone tunnels built in the late 18th century to house tradesmen and pubs, the vaults were poorly built and soon be-





## Sir William Wallace: a review

By Bob Wallace

For the relatively few of us who take the time to look into the life and times of Sir William Wallace, Scotland's Great Patriot, it becomes readily apparent that not all that much is known about his life: where and when he was born, where and how he lived in his young adult lifetime, and if he owned property in Scotland.

Between Wallace's life and this modern era lie a handful of Medieval-era historians: John Fordoun (c.1330-c.1384), Andrew Wyntoun (1350-1423), Abbot Walter Bower (c.1385-1449) and Blind Harry (1440-1492). The first two lived well before Harry's time. Bower lived long enough to find Harry about nine years of age when Bower died in 1449. Of these men, only Blind Harry references an alleged diary kept by William Wallace's boyhood friend and personal chaplain, John Blair. Whether any such diary existed is open to question. No one has seen it in the intervening years.

Lack of detail on the life of William Wallace leaves readers to dig into one or more of the traditional stories about Wallace: the River Irvine fish story; Loudoun Hill; Barns of Ayr, and others. Most of them have been discounted by historians over lack of documentation, if any documentation exists at all for such stories. Many of Blind Harry's tales can be discounted, given the known inconsistencies in what he presents as being factual, and the dates that contradict who may have been present at one or another of the incidents involving Wallace's exploits. One such involves Sir John Graham assisting Wallace at a battle after Graham was killed at Falkirk in July of 1298.

What is said to be known of Wallace is that he was born somewhere between 1270 and 1275, that birth for many years thought to have taken place in Elderslie. His father for nearly seven centuries was said to be Malcolm Wallace. With publication of the John McGill book, writing under the pen



WILLIAM WALLACE.

*A 1757 engraving of William Wallace by Granger (hand water colors). No contemporary image of William Wallace exists.*

name Craufuird C. Loudoun in 1999, it is McGill's contention that Crawford family documents reveal that William was born on August 5, 1270. McGill based his date of birth for William following a decade of research into the Crawford family papers at Dumfries House.

As late as 1999, it was finally revealed that Wallace's seal, found on the Lubeck letter dating to October 11, 1297, gives his father's name as Alan. Looking through the Ragman Rolls of 1296 finds an Alan Wallace as a crown tenant living in Ayrshire, but not telling us where in Ayrshire he might have lived. Others who signed that document gave only the county they lived in, presumably, and/or the area where they held property.

That William was born and may have lived in Ayrshire is made more likely based on now knowing his father's name and where he, Alan, likely lived. One possibility is at Auchincruive, today known as Auchincruive Estates on Ordnance Survey maps, just across the river and slightly upstream from today's city of Ayr. A Wallace family is

known to have inhabited that area for some number of decades before dying out in the 1400s. According to historian Alexander Grant's essay in *The Wallace Book*, first published in 2007, republished in 2010 and 2014, the lack of a surviving family member at the time Blind Harry's book came out around 1475-1480, may explain the absence of any specific reference to that family line.

Yet another possibility exists, albeit for later in William's life, that being a location near today's New Cumnock in the former King's Kyle region. Two locations are given for that area: William's Castle and Black Craig, each site near to New Cumnock. Lack of any documented evidence stating that William held property there leads back to "tradition says," that point where historians tell us that no documentation means it cannot be proven.

Given the number of locations around Scotland that make reference to being related to William Wallace during his lifetime is a major reason historians discount many of them. In some instances, many of these locations are in regions where it is generally accepted that William most likely never visited! Relying on primarily English records to build their case for or against any part of William's life tends to mean that anything of a questionable nature, anything unlikely to be provable, is cast aside.

Since revealing in 1999 that William's seal states that he is the son of Alan Wallace, a large number of books and



*Re-enactors create a Scottish schiltrons.*

## CWS Member Ronald Heacock Honored

By John R. Wallace

In early August 2014, Buncombe County, North Carolina, Sheriff's Detective Ronald Heacock and his partner, while on patrol, came upon an Interstate accident involving a couple of trucks and several cars. After calling in the incident to get assistance, they assessed the situation and noted that persons were trapped in two trucks and one of the trucks was on fire. The officers moved to that vehicle and attempted to get the man out and free of the fire. Once the door was opened, Ron, on his own, entered the burning truck to free the driver's legs, which were jammed under the steering wheel and dashboard while others on the scene attempted to put out the fire. Detective Heacock was successful and the man, whose life was in great peril as the truck was close to exploding, was moved to safety. Due to Detective Heacock's personal heroic actions and at the risk of his own safety and life, the man was saved.

In conjunction with his Retirement Ceremony and Banquet held on 26 September 2014, Detective Heacock was awarded "THE LAW ENFORCEMENT LIFE SAVING AWARD with HONORS, the Department's highest life saving citation.

Ron's Partner, Detective David Shroat, was also decorated during the ceremony.

The receipt of this major award by Council and Board Member Ronald Heacock is considered to be exceptional in Merit and of noteworthy Honor and the President and Members of the Clan Wallace Society (CWS) Board congratulate Ronald Heacock on this occasion.

Well done, Ron. Pro Libertate!



*Detective David Shroat (Ron's Partner), Ronald Heacock, Major Scott Bssinger, Sheriff Van Duncan, and Chief Deputy Don Revis.*



*The defeat at Falkirk effectively put an end to Wallace's rebellion in Scotland, though his guerilla actions continued for years.*

*(Continued from page 11)*

discussions have dealt with what is now known of William versus what had previously been known primarily based on Blind Harry's writings. Some historians now lean in the direction that William very likely was born not in Renfrewshire but in Ayrshire, although the exact location of his birth may never satisfactorily known.

Also likely to be unknown, aside from "tradition says," are all the actions in which William played any part during his lifetime. Killing of the English sheriff in Lanark and running the English judge out of Scone are accepted, as are the Battle of Stirling Bridge in September of 1297, and Falkirk less than one year later. Given the death of Sir Andrew Murray perhaps several months after Stirling Bridge allowed William to serve as sole Guardian of Scotland, something no other man can lay claim to. His resignation following the loss at Falkirk gave the Guardianship to Bruce and Comyn.

Within months of that resignation William was off to France to plead for assistance for Scotland from the French king, and is thought to have had visions of visiting the pope in Rome to make the case for Scotland being its own independent kingdom.

Knowledge of a letter of safe conduct from the French king dated in 1300 is evidence that William did arrive in France, but no evidence has thus far been found that would acknowledge his visit to Rome.

Where can you find Wallace books? On occasion at Games and Festivals one might find a used book vendor with one or more copies of books on Wallace. CWS publishes *The Book of Wallace* by Dr. Charles Rodgers, and the *Maitland Papers*.

Searching the internet can be helpful, but will work much better when using *sir william wallace* in the search. One search done in mid-July 2015 came up with well over 230,000 hits! Note that books continue to be published on Wallace's life, not all that many of them being given with announcements of their availability. One needs to search on occasion to learn what might have come out more recently.