

# CLAN POLLOCK INTERNATIONAL

## THE POLLAG

Cinnedah Pollag -- A Pool of Information

The Pollag  
July 2007

*"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

## Words from the President...



It's hard to believe that it's time for the July *Pollog*. This year is really flying by!

We are making our plans to head to Grandfather Mountain for the Scottish Games July 12 – 15. We hope to see many of you there. Ben & Merle Stone always do a great job of hosting the Clan Pollock tent. Also our AGM meeting and dinner will be Saturday evening, July 14th at the Woodlands Bar B Q Restaurant in Blowing Rock.

We want to thank Robert & Dorothy Slemmons for their leadership in hosting Kansas games for Clan Pollock for the past several years. Bob writes that their health is making it more difficult for them to continue and we certainly understand. We need some of our younger members in that area to step up and take over these responsibilities.

The Tennessee Highland Games are once again having to change their location. The games this year will be Saturday, October 6th in Kittrell, TN, 7 miles from Murfreesboro, TN, off of HW 70S toward Woodbury. Look for the signs! The website at [www.hotsc.bravehost.com](http://www.hotsc.bravehost.com) will have more information. It is always difficult when the location of Games has to be changed, but this group has weathered difficulties before and I'm sure they will rally again and come out even better. John and Sandi Mauldin of Murfreesboro are the chairpeople of this group and have done a great job for over 10 years. The Games will be a 1 day event with Alex Beaton and Secret Commonwealth as the musical entertainment. There will be a Kirkin on Sunday at the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Murfreesboro.

Have a good summer.

*A. D. Pollock*

Clan Pollock President

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**Editor's Notes**

The deadline for submissions for the next issue of The Pollag is June 28th. Remember Clan Pollock members enjoy hearing your news. So send your news, to the editor, Beth Avery, at averyb@mail.otherwhen.com

**NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS****FLOWERS OF THE FOREST**

Our sympathy goes to the family of H. Carlyle Pollock, Sedalia, Colorado who passed away recently.

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS**

Christopher Pollock, Ithaca, New York  
 Herbert M. Pollock, Highland, California  
 Jack K. Pollock, McAllen, Texas  
 James C. Pollock, Richmond, Maine  
 Thomas M. Pollock, Clemson, South Carolina



**Archie Pollock, III with General Gale Pollock, U.S.Army and Clan Pollock President, A.D. Pollock**

Lieutenant Colonel Archie D. Pollock III was the head of the ROTC department at the University of West Florida in Pensacola invited General Gale Pollock, Acting Surgeon General of the Army, to commission his graduates and then the University asked General Pollock to speak at their graduation ceremonies. General Pollock was a student at the Army's school of health sciences when Clan Pollock President, A.D. Pollock, was the dean of the school. A.D. presented her with an honorary Lifetime Membership in Clan Pollock

**Want to Tie One On? A Clan Pollock Tie That is...**

Clan Tartan Ties are now in stock. It's \$14 for the boys ties (about 19" length) and \$20 for Men's Ties (about 59" length). They were made by Ingles Buchan in the UK. Check the Website [www.clanpollock.com](http://www.clanpollock.com) under Clan Merchandise.

~Howard Pollock

**Note from the Editor:**

We had hoped to have the newsletter out earlier, but the Farmers market season started and Mike has been working two-three days straight (with only catnaps) and Beth accepted a new job. So we've been busy getting the house ready to sell, while trying to keep up with everything. As a result, things got away from us. Please accept our apologies.

## UPCOMING GAMES

Send local Clan Gatherings to Howard Pollock, <[clan\\_pollock\\_treas@msn.com](mailto:clan_pollock_treas@msn.com)> so he can list them on our web page <http://www.Clanpollock.com> for those that may be traveling through this season, that they may be able to go to our website to look up local games which our members are attending or holding a clan Booth.

### News of the 2007 AGM, July 11-14

We will have the supper for the AGM at Woodlands Barbecue in Blowing Rock NC. Meals are \$7.00 each. It will be held Saturday night, July 14. We need 40 people to sign up. It certainly won't be as elegant as the Western Pollock's great spread last fall, but The Woodlands Restaurant is one of North Carolina's best Barbecue Restaurants. For more information see their website: <http://www.woodlandsbbq.com/> Please let know if you are coming and how many. We can bring our own booze, beer, etc or buy from the bar. Ben Stone, 110 Westerly Rd., New Bern, NC 28560: 252-638-8419; [bstone3@ec.rr.com](mailto:bstone3@ec.rr.com). I'll need to know before July 7.

It is an important meeting with new officers needing to be elected.

~ Ben Stone

**Grandfather Mountain Games. July 11<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup>** These games have the most Clan tents of any games held. <http://www.gmhg.org/> Remember this is also our AGM this year.

### WEST KENTUCKY HIGHLAND FESTIVAL MURRAY, KENTUCKY September 14 - 16, 2007

The West Kentucky Highland Festival has moved! This Festival was formerly held in Paducah, Kentucky, but this year the Festival will be held in the Murray City Central Park. For more information on this event, go to their website: [www.wkyhighlandfestival.com](http://www.wkyhighlandfestival.com)

### Treasure Valley Celtic Festival & Highland Games. Boise, Idaho September 22<sup>nd</sup>

The games will be held at the Western Idaho Fair Grounds, <http://www.idahoscots.org/festival.htm> If you're interested this game, contact Howard Pollock, Clan Treasurer, [clan\\_pollock\\_treas@msn.com](mailto:clan_pollock_treas@msn.com).

### Richmond Highland Games and Celtic Festival Richmond, Virginia October 27 & 28

The 13<sup>th</sup> annual games will be held at the Richmond Raceway complex. For more information <http://www.richmondceltic.com/site.asp> or contact Robert Parrish, [raibear@verizon.net](mailto:raibear@verizon.net), for information about the Clan Pollock tent.

### COLONIAL CAPITAL SCOTTISH FESTIVAL NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA April 25-26, 2009



You are cordially invited to participate in making the **FIRST** annual Colonial Capital Scottish Festival happen! Mark your Calendars for a New Scottish Festival coming to New Bren, North Carolina in 2009. The Festival is scheduled to be held April 25 - 26, 2009 at Lawson Creek Park. More information can be seen at: [www.colonialcapitalscottishfestival.org](http://www.colonialcapitalscottishfestival.org)

## Other Games

Games where Clan Pollock may or may not be represented. Contact our President, A.D. Pollock if you are interested in hosting a tent at any of these events, or at other events in your area.

## GAME REPORTS

### Loch Norman Highland Games

The Loch Norman Highland Games could have had any better weather all weekend. The games began Friday night (4/20/2007) with a picnic, then a sponsors and patrons reception that got a lot of Scots oiled. After dark came the "Calling of the Clans". A lot of the oiled conveners gave long drawn out speeches. I kept Clan Pollock's calling short and to the point.

Saturday the games began officially at 10 am with introduction of the honored guests, all the pertinent national anthems, and the invocation. Rob and Rosemary Pollock were there all weekend and were a tremendous help. Rob wore his Virginia Tech baseball cap throughout the games with his kilt to honor those students that were killed Tim, Kelly, Wilson, and Caroline Stone were there all weekend as well. Pete Pollock and wife from Vero Beach FL were camping and came by Friday night and Saturday. A few Polks came by and we gave them information on our Clan.



Rosemary and Rob at the tent.

Sunday started with a church service and kirkin' of the tartans. Clan Pollock was represented. The folks at Loch Norman made a big deal that only kilted people could march in the Parade of Tartans. Ben Stone and Rob Pollock marched. The womenfolk were crippled up and the other folks in the tent didn't have their tartans. We got applause though.

We always enjoy these games and have present at every one. Rosemary Pollock asked if it was worth while to keep coming as so few Pollocks attended this year....what do ya'll think?

Ben Stone

### Polk Family Spotlight: Reverend Charles Polk

Rev. Charles Polk, a second cousin to President Polk, was a prominent pioneer of the northern branch of the Polk Family. Born and raised in Kentucky, he and his wife, Williellimus (Willey) Dever Polk, emigrated to the Indiana Territory in 1807. They were the first permanent Caucasian settlers in Perry County in an area bordering the Ohio River that became known as "Polk's Bottom". Rev. Polk, a Baptist minister, organized several churches in the county, became a prominent landowner, a judge and, in 1816, was elected to represent the county at the State Constitutional Convention. As such, he participated in establishing the State of Indiana, which entered the union as the 19th state on December 11, 1816.

Submitted to *The Young Hickory News*, Spring, 2007  
by Jim Reece, lineal descendant of Rev. Charles Polk.

Are there any Clan Pollock members who are descended from this branch of the Polk Family?

## HISTORIAN'S CORNER

### From Lifford to America Scotch-Irish and Pollock Beginnings in America – Part 1

John F. Polk, Ph.D.

Historian

Clan Pollock International

A great many of our Pollock ancestors came to America from Scotland by way of Ireland as members of the ethnic group that we now call Scotch-Irish. In Ireland they are known as Ulster-Scots. As such they were

descendants of Scottish families who settled for a time in the north of Ireland, or Ulster, but eventually left for religious or economic reasons. The usual understanding of the Scotch-Irish immigration to America is the steady exodus that began around 1715, and continued unabated right up until the start of the revolution. It is estimated that about a quarter million people came during this period, filling up the American frontier and back country along the Appalachians from New England to the Carolinas. The story of these hardy pioneers and their lasting impact on American history has been told many times and is probably very familiar to most Clan Pollock members.

What is not so well recognized is the smaller precursor group of Scotch-Irish that arrived in the Chesapeake region in the late 1600's and provided a vanguard to welcome and guide the later wave of immigrants when it began to arrive a quarter century later. This earlier group was largely from the Laggan, the eastern part of Donegal, particularly the area of Lifford, and first settled in Somerset County, Maryland, in the decade of the 1680's. They were following the lead of Presbyterian ministers Francis Makemie and William Trail who arrived in Somerset in 1683.

Makemie is the acknowledged founder and patriarch of the Presbyterian Church in America. Trail is less well-known but may have been more instrumental in inducing some of the Ulster-Scot families of the Laggan to emigrate since he was their minister. Although there were certainly other Ulster-Scots to be found in the colonies from the earliest days of English settlement there was no identifiable group of them that formed a recognized element of the community before Makemie and Trail's arrival in Somerset.. We do not know the details of their arrival – whether they came in the same ship or with an initial contingent of followers and the exact date – but in any case many Ulster-Scots appeared in Somerset at this time. In the ensuing decade there was a steady influx of these people, both ministers and laity, as can be seen in the land, court and probate records of Somerset, and from contemporary accounts. Among these early arrivals were the first members of our Pollock clan to settle in America – Robert Pollock/Polke and his wife Magdalen Tasker. Robert and Magdalen Polke were from Ballendrait near Lifford where Magdalen's father Roger Tasker was a local official and substantial landowner. ("Polke" is the most common spelling of the family name as it appears in Somerset records, but it is also spelled Pollock, Polyke, Poke, and Polk, and many other variations.)

This migration from Ireland had its origins in a letter sent by Colonel William Stevens, one of the founders and original County Commissioners of Somerset, to the Presbytery of the Laggan (Donegal) in 1680, asking that a "godly minister" be sent to supply the needs of the people of Somerset. The text of the letter has not survived, but the minutes of the Presbytery include the following entry:

*Decem: 29 1680 Col. Stevens from Maryland beside Virginia his desire of a godly minister is represented to us. The Meeting will consider it seriously and do what they can in it. Mr. John Heart is to write to Mr. William Keyes about it and Mr. Robt. Rule to the Meetings of Route and Tyrone, and Mr. William Trail to the Meetings of Down and Antrim.*

The motives of Stevens can be seen as both enlightened and self-interested. He had acquired very extensive land rights in the form of warrants, surveys and patented land, certainly more than any other individual in the county at that time. More settlers would clearly increase the value of these holdings and help him realize a substantial profit. Whatever its motivation, Colonel Stevens' letter no doubt found a receptive audience. The transplanted Scots in Ulster had struggled through the Plantation, the Catholic uprising of 1641, the devastation of Ireland and invasion of Scotland by Cromwell, the restoration of Charles II, and faced the prospect of an outright Catholic restoration under James II, who did ascend the throne in 1685.

Most noteworthy from our perspective were the tribulations of William Trail himself. Trail was the scion of a prominent Scottish family whose father, Robert Trail, was himself a Presbyterian minister, while his uncle, Lt Col James Trail, was a highly esteemed officer in Cromwell's army with a landed estate in Killeleagh, County Down. William Trail studied for the ministry at Edinburgh until 1661 and was licensed but could not be ordained because of the oppressive conditions prevailing in Scotland at the time. In fact, his father, Reverend Robert Trail, was tried and banished from Scotland, for life, at exactly this time for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance. He departed his country for Holland in January, 1662, nearly sixty years of age. William Trail relocated to Ireland and was finally ordained in 1673 at Lifford and became the minister at Ballendrait.

Trail's decision to leave Ireland with Makemie was probably the direct result of events that unfolded during 1681-82. First Trail was charged with fomenting opposition among certain officers being confined in Lifford, and inducing them to refuse the Oath of Supremacy, to which the Presbyterians could not subscribe. Then he and several other ministers issued a call for a one day fast in February 1681. This may seem a rather innocuous act in our times but it was regarded by local officials as an affront and challenge to their authority. Only high officials of the established church were thought to be empowered to call a fast. Trail and three other ministers were brought before the magistrates in Raphoe to explain themselves, and then summoned to Dublin in June 1681 for an interrogation by the Lord Lieutenant and his Privy Council. This was a legalistic grilling that lasted two days but the four ministers acquitted themselves well. Trail's own detailed account of this experience has survived. They were released on bond and returned to Lifford for trial where they were convicted and fined £20 each. They refused to pay for what they considered an illegal charge, and were therefore held in prison for eight months until spring of 1682. These events

were highly resented by Trail's followers in Lifford, and no doubt throughout the entire Presbyterian community in Ulster, and gave them every reason to see their prospects as very bleak. It was during this period that Trail made his decision to embark for the colonies along with Makemie.

We can be sure that William Trail's decision to leave for Maryland was not made in isolation but was shared and intensely discussed with his congregation from the environs of Ballindrait, and the possibility of their doing likewise directly considered. Some may have accompanied him when he left. In any case, as conditions worsened many made that momentous decision. It is certain that a number of the Ulster-Scot families of Donegal elected to cast their lot in the new world at this time. Among these were such families as Wallace, Knox, McKnitt, Alexander, Gray, Caldwell, Wilson, Owens, White, Galbraith, Miller, Johnson, Emmett, Polk, and many others. All of these family names are prominent in the 1665 Hearth Rolls for Donegal, particularly in Clonleigh (Lifford), within the Barony of Raphoe.

The presence of Ulster-Scot families was so quickly established in Somerset that by 1689, when the Advice of Loyalty document was sent by its citizens to the newly enthroned sovereigns, William and Mary, the large majority of those whose religion is known among the 235 signers were Presbyterian. Clayton Torrence, the eminent historian of early Somerset, called it "preponderantly a Presbyterian document." This development did not escape official notice in the Chesapeake area. An interesting passage appears in a letter of Edward Randolph, a Virginia official, to the Commissioners of Customs for James City County in Virginia, dated 17 June 1692:

*I hear he has continued Maj<sup>r</sup> King to bee the Navall Officer in Somerset Co<sup>ty</sup>, a place pestred with Scotch & Irish. About 200 families have within the two years arrived from Ireland & settled in your County besides some hundred of family's there before. They have set up a linnen Manufacture, Encouraged thereto by Co<sup>ll</sup> Brown, a Scotchman, one of the Councill & by Maj<sup>r</sup> King & other principall persons upon the place, who support the Interlopers, & buy up all their Loading upon their first arrival, & govern the whole trade on the Eastern shore, so that whereas 7 or 8 good ships from Eng<sup>d</sup> did yearly trade & load the Tob<sup>co</sup> of that Co<sup>ty</sup> I find that in these three years last past there has not been above 5 trading ships legally in all those Rivers, & nigh 30 Sayle of Scotch Irish & New Eng<sup>d</sup> men.*

To be continued

## The Family Tree

I've been seeing quite a few references to genetic testing as a genealogical tool on the internet and wonder whether it would be possible to propose that Clan Pollock begin a family study such as those featured in Cyndi's List <http://www.cyndislist.com/surn-dna.htm#P> The Pollag would be an excellent place to launch the project. Please let me know what you think.

Kind regards  
James Pogue  
[pogue\\_james@hotmail.com](mailto:pogue_james@hotmail.com)

## A New Family Tree

Check out <http://www.electricscotland.com/bnft/index.htm> for a new fangled family tree. It is awesome 70 pages in pdf. Clan Pollock stuff is in the 3rd part.

Ben Stone

## PUBLICATIONS

The first e-copy of *The Claymore*, Council of Scottish Clans & Associations newsletter has been published. We're very excited about it, and we sincerely hope you enjoy this service. If you would like to receive this electronic publication contact Christie Harrison, [president@COSCA.net](mailto:president@COSCA.net).

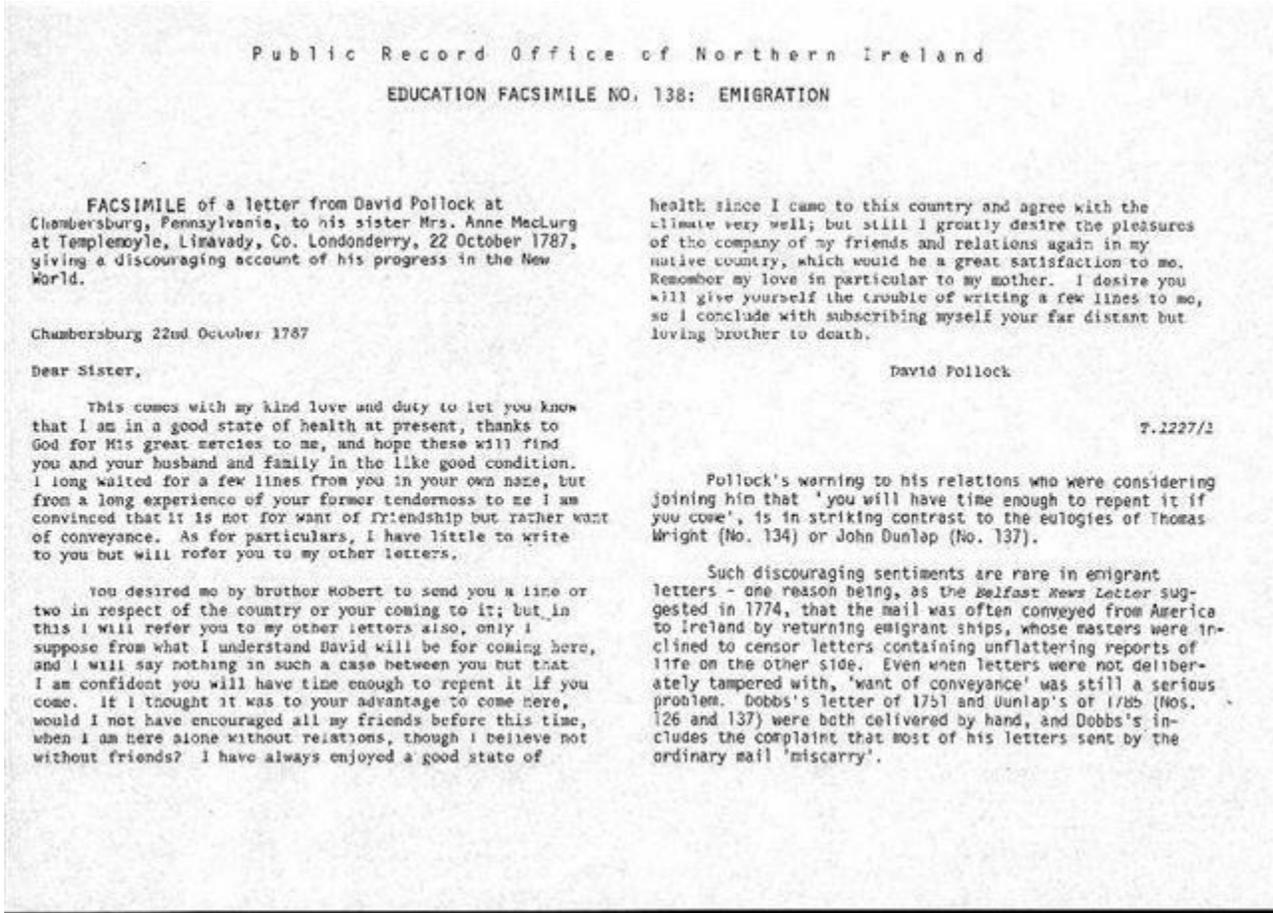
Our goal is to provide you with clan news from throughout the U.S., as well as from around the world. Additionally, since there is now a great deal of dialogue between the U.S. and Scotland, we want to keep you informed on what's happening here and in Scotland. And, of course, we will be updating you on Tartan Day activities.

Christie Harrison  
President, Council of Scottish Clans & Associations  
2800 S. Desplaines Avenue, North Riverside, IL 60546

## A copy of a 1787 letter written by David Pollock to his sister Ann McClure or McClurg

David was in Chambersburg, Franklin Co., PA at the time of writing of this letter to his sister Ann in Antrim, Ireland. If any current Pollock's are interested in this contact Gordon Crooks, [glcrooks@bcpl.net](mailto:glcrooks@bcpl.net)

Thanks to Marjorie Bridges for forwarding this.



## A History of Grandfather Mountain Highland Games

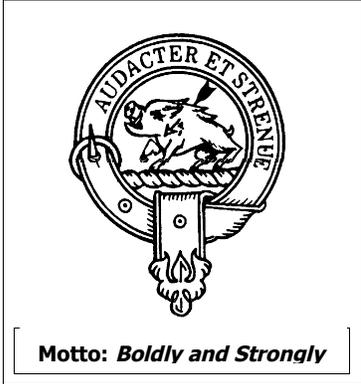
*America's Braemar: Grandfather Mountain & The Re-birth of Scottish Identity Across the US*, a 50-year history of the famous Grandfather Mountain (NC) Highland Games, Eastern America's largest gathering of Scottish clans and associated societies has been published. It traces the start of this tartan-clan spectacle and includes references to scores of similar Games, plus Clan, St Andrew's and Robert Burns Societies, bagpipe bands, Highland dance and Gaelic language workshops which, within recent years, have sprung up across America.

The 450-page volume is by Donald MacDonald, retired Edinburgh, Scotland, journalist and university prof, who, while living in North Carolina, helped Mrs Agnes MacRae Morton establish the Games on MacRae Meadows, near Linville, in the beautiful Appalachian Highlands. MacDonald and Morton used the souvenir program of Scotland's Braemar Gathering as a guide, which is why their endeavor has always been called "America's Braemar".

The new book will available from the offices of the GMHG, P.O. Box 1095, Linville, NC, 28646, Tel: (828) 733\_1333, <[highlandgames@vol.com](mailto:highlandgames@vol.com)> or from Southern Lion Books, Inc., J.H. Segars, Publisher, 1280 Westminster Way, Madison, GA, 30656, <[slbooks@hotmail.com](mailto:slbooks@hotmail.com)>.

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Thank you for your continued support and participation in Clan Pollock!