

CLAN POLLOCK INTERNATIONAL

THE POLLAG

The Pollag
April 2005

"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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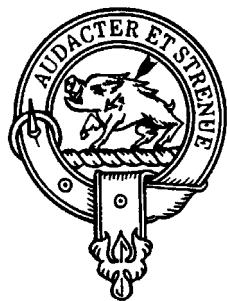
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Audacter et Strenue
Boldly and Strongly

Cinnedah Pollag -- A Pool of Information

Words from the President...

A.D. Pollock, Jr



I would like to thank each of you who have paid your 2005 dues. As of the end of March we have received dues from 82 members. That leaves us with approximately one hundred 2004 members with outstanding dues. You can use the form on the inside back page of this issue to send in your dues. We also have 111 Lifetime members which brings our total membership currently to 293. Several of you gave gift memberships to family members in 2004. Thanks for helping out our organization in this way.

Don't forget - our 2005 Clan Pollock Annual Meeting will be held this year at the Glasgow Highland Games in Glasgow, Kentucky the weekend of June 2 - 5th. We are looking forward to this event. Several of my "Western United States" Pollock cousins will be attending these Games before we head for Greenville, Kentucky for a family reunion. Please look for more information in this Pollag in regard to room reservations and other information for the Games.

The Grandfather Mountain Highland Games will celebrate their 50th anniversary this year. The Games will be held July 7 - 10, 2005 at Grandfather Mountain, North Carolina. These are the first Games Clara Ann and I attended in 1994 and they remain among our favorite to attend. Ben & Merle Stone do a great job of hosting the Clan Pollock tent at this event. According to the brochure this year, "This is the largest Scottish clan gathering in the world. If you are a Scot, or if you are not, come enjoy this truly Highland Celebration at MacRae Meadows on Grandfather Mountain in the real Highlands of Eastern North America."

I want to encourage you to attend a Scottish event in your area this year. We still need people to host a Clan Pollock tent in many areas. We'll be glad to provide you with what you need to set up a tent. Just let us know!

Bob Slemmons, our Kansas Commissioner, writes that he has had a medical problem reoccur. Bob is still planning to be at the Kansas City Games June 11th, but he could certainly use some help from our members in that area at these Games. Bob & Dorothy have been very faithful over the years despite a few setbacks, health wise. Bob says, "I know my Scottish ancestors would never have permitted a little thing like this to stand in the way." If you can help out, please e-mail Bob at rdslem@hotmail.com

If you have anything you would like brought up at our 2005 Annual Meeting and can not make it to the Glasgow Games, please send me your items either by mail or e-mail.

My very Best Wishes to each of you,
A. D. Pollock, Jr.

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Editor's Notes

The deadline for submissions for the next issue of The Pollag is June 25. Remember Clan Pollock members enjoy hearing your news. So send your news, to the editor.

Get to know.....

Our New Members

Marian Pollock Knowlton, San Antonio, TX
Richard H. Pollock, San Antonio, TX
Linda C. Williams, Greeley, CO *
Charlotte Zimbelman, Las Vegas, NV
* - Former Member, Rejoining

Carol Black, Arizona Commissioner

Born and raised in Canada, the daughter of John and Ruth Pollock, who have been the best parents ever. Dad was an officer in the Royal Canadian Air Force and we traveled on the average, every four years; my love for travel probably grew out of that lifestyle.

I have been fortunate to have had two careers in my life and blessed by doing something that I was passionate about, education and health.

For seven years of my first "life", I taught students of the Junior High level (grades 7 & 8 in Canada), was Acting Principal and taught all subjects at one time or another during those years. I then took on the challenge of Special Education, specializing in Speech Correction/Therapy. I was one of two SC teachers in our county and traveled to thirteen schools (had a caseload of 150 students) a week.

Twentythree years ago, I moved to Arizona, married my husband and started my "second life". For the next twentyone years I worked with my husband in our clinic, as office manager. Further training enabled me to work more directly with the patients, "hands on" is the expression, providing therapy and rehab. This, I found, to be very interesting and rewarding work.

Since semi-retiring from practice two years ago, both my husband and I have the time now to devote to our other interests such as: our beloved chivalric Order, in which I am Secretary of our Arizona Commandery (which will reach Priory status in May); have received a promotion to Dame Commandeur and received the Meritorious Service Medal; currently serve as Vice Regent of our Prescott chapter of The DBE (Daughters of the British Empire); currently serve as the Arizona.Commissioner for Clan Pollock. For the last three years, I have been the research assistant for an ongoing series of seminars in Orthopedics.

My interests are many and varied, to include Art, genealogy, travel and research. We are also the home to twentytwo cats (who came to visit and decided to stay) and four dogs.

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

William Pollock of Auckland, New Zealand

The death on January 16, 2005 in Auckland New Zealand of William Pollock in his 96th year, brings to an end a remarkable family of ten brothers and sisters which had its origins in the townland of Clintagh in County Down in Ulster. With the exception of James Pollock, my Father, all of the others survived into their nineties; four of the sons emigrated to New Zealand and the USA in the early 1900s, and William with two of his sisters left Ireland for New Zealand in 1951. There are now many descendants of these emigres in many parts of the world.

This particular family is itself one of a long line of Pollocks who were farmers in County

Down, and I myself was born and brought up on the same land where they had settled for 250 years. As they prospered various sub-branches spread around the locality over time, and in 1871 a Pollock/Pollock marriage occurred (probably between cousins), and this couple eventually emigrated to America with their nine Ulster-born children. They settled in Allegheny County, Pa. where they had a further three children, and many of their descendants are centred around that area. My 'cousin' Joan (Pollock) Vranesa in Denton, Texas and I have been trying to compile a family tree of the County Down Pollocks, and while we have a considerable file, data in Ireland before 1800 is difficult to get. As far as I am aware no full history of the Pollock name in Ireland exists, but one assumes that 'our' Pollocks are likely to be the descendants of the original Robert Pollock (1726-1799) mentioned in the Lloyd Welsh Pogue book of The Pollocks (p xxiv). Any help from readers about Pollocks in Ireland would be most welcome.

One further bit of historical information may be of interest to readers. The Clintagh Pollocks intermarried with the McKees, -another notable family in the locality; my Great-Great-Grandmother was Rebecca McKee (1793-1850). During the 1798 rebellion in Ulster English soldiers destroyed the McKee home during a (mistaken) search for hidden arms. Before setting fire to the house, soldiers allowed Mrs McKee (Rebecca's Mother) to take one item. She chose the Family Bible. This McKee Bible still exists, -I've had in my hands. It has been in the Pollock family care ever since the intermarriage, and is now with my late Uncle William's family in New Zealand.

~(Professor) John M. Pollock, Clan Member.

The Mill House, Glandyfi, Machynlleth, Wales SY20 8SS. UK.

Major Robert Dunbar

Our sympathy to Marion Pollock Dunbar, Clan Pollock Lifetime Member, and her family in the loss of her husband, Major Bob Dunbar, who passed away January 26, 2005 at the age of 90 years. The Dunbars had not been able to attend the Games for several years due to his ill health, but they were always loyal supporters of Clan Pollock.

Andrew J. Pollock

Andrew J. Pollock of Billings Montana passed away in September after years of suffering with COPD. Andrew and Elsie were married for sixty-one years. Andrew was always very proud of his Scottish heritage - his grandfather, Gavin Pollock came to America in 1880 from the Glasgow area.

HIGHLAND GAMES

REPORTS

Chicago Highland Games

The Chicago Highland Games were the 18th annual and were very successful, about 12,000 to 13,000 people attended on a weather perfect day. The children's game area was a big hit again this year. Just before the Tartan Parade, I sent a piper to their area to march the children over to our parade grounds.

The Tartan Parade was a success again this year. The Chicago Highland Rifles led the Medina Temple Shriner's Pipe and Drums to the center of the athletic field., and then returned to the Clydesdale Horses, Clan MacLeod, which was the honored Clan, and the other Clans in alphabetical order. After each Clan passed in review, a paragraph about the Clan was read over the loud speaker. Following the Clans were the Societies, the children and parents, and the dogs of the British Isles. All the while, the Medina Temple Shriner's played. The parade, around the inside rope of the athletic field, lasted about one hour and had 36 clans marching.

The closing ceremony was awesome! Thirty-three Pipe and Drum Bands played. If you were not there, you missed plenty!.

We had about 50 people stop at our tent, only two of whom were related to Pollock's or had ancestors of that name. They took applications with them and said they would be returning them with their check and application to join our Clan.

~ Paul D.. Layman.

Mesa, Arizona Games

After experiencing rain the whole week before the Games, we were uncertain as to what we would be facing in the way of field conditions. To our delight, the weekend was sunny and warm, the field was in relatively good condition and the weather couldn't have been more perfect so, the crowd turnout was good.

Assisting at the tent this year were my husband, John, Marsha Brown and Terry Kelly. It was a particular treat this year to have my brother and sister-in-law, Terry and Angela Pollock, visiting from Brampton, Ontario, Canada. Terry carried the Pollock tartan flag in the opening ceremony parade; Marsha and I carried the Pollock name banner.

We had a good turn out of people at our tent this year; two membership applications were handed out and photos taken. My husband also shared space with his display of swords and helmets, replicas of ones used by early Templar Knights; it was a draw for other Knights from two Orders in particular.

~ Dr. Carol Black

UPCOMING GAMES AND EVENTS

2005 POLK FAMILY REUNION

The 2005 Polk Family Reunion will be held the weekend of June 10-12 at the James K. Polk Memorial State Historic Site in Pineville, North Carolina, just south of Charlotte. The Memorial marks the birthplace of President James K. Polk. The reunion website is <http://www.polkfamilyreunion.com/> Clan Pollock has been invited to the past two Polk reunions (held every other year) and we hope to have good representation at the 2005 event. See Polk Memorial website at



In the 1750s William Polk and his family joined a handful of pioneers in the piedmont of North Carolina. Many of his eight children became leaders in the new community; his five sons and several grandsons were Revolutionary War heroes, and his great-grandson James Knox Polk became America's eleventh president. Join us for a weekend of activities focusing on these early Polk settlers and the heritage that produced a president.

On Friday evening Dr. Dan L. Morrill, Professor of History at UNC Charlotte, and Director of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission will speak on the migration of the Scots-Irish to North Carolina, the conditions they encountered, and the political, social, and religious traditions they instilled.

Saturday morning's keynote address will be delivered by Jack Claiborne, former reporter and editor at *The Charlotte Observer*. He will address the political climate that led to the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, the Revolutionary War, and the patriotic fervor that included Polks at every step.

Saturday afternoon there will be a Carolina Barbecue at the Polk Birthplace followed by many entertaining activities. Be sure to meet General Thomas Polk and his wife who have traveled through time for the event. Thomas was James K. Polk's great uncle, a revolutionary war hero, and civic leader. Also meet Charles Woodmason, 18th century explorer, preacher, and malcontent, whose mission was to bring the nest of heathen Presbyterians into the fold of the Church of England.

Saturday evening Dr. James Sasser, Professor Emeritus of History at Central Piedmont Community College will speak about the westward migration to Tennessee and elsewhere that occurred in the early 19th century. James K. Polk's family was part of that migration when he was a boy of eleven.

Loch Norman Highland Games (NC) , April 15-17.

Just a reminder that Clan Pollock will have tents at the Loch Norman Highland Games; PO Box 1009, Huntersville NC. 28070-0099. The dates are April 15-17, 2005. The callin of the clans will be Friday evening. There will be a Historic Folk Life Encampment. For information <http://www.ruralhillfarm.org/servlet/Main?page=LNHG>

~ Ben Stone



Bethabara Park (NC) Celtic Festival, May 13.

We will have a tent at The Bethabara Park Celtic Festival in Winston-Salem, NC May 13. For information http://www.bethabara.org/calendar05/Untitled/home_games/home_games.html

50th Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, July 7-10

We will have two tents at the 50th Grandfather Mountain Highland Games; PO Box 1095, Linville NC 28646-1095 on July 7-10 2005. For more information see <http://www.gmhg.org/>.

~ Ben Stone



PRESCOTT GAMES, May 21

Prescott, Arizona will be having their Scottish Highland Games at Watson Lake, Saturday, May 21, 2005. We hope to see Prescott area Pollocks come out to visit our tent.

~ Dr. Carol Black

KANSAS GAMES, June 11

We are making plans to host a tent at the Kansas City Scottish Highland Games on June 11(<http://www.kcscottishgames.org/>). Plan to be at the Parade of Tartans at 11:30 a.m. and stay until the closing ceremonies with the massed bands at 5:00 p.m.

We'll also be at the McPherson, Ks Scottish Festival on September 24-25, as we have in recent years. It's located on interstate 35 between Wichita and Salina.

Bob would like some extra help this year, so if you're going to be in the area let him know you can help with the tents. It's great fun to meet people who share an interest in things Scottish!

~Bob Slemmons

CLAN POLLOCK 2005 AGM

JUNE 2 - JUNE 5, 2005



We hope you are making your plans to attend Clan Pollock's AGM in 2005 to be held at the Glasgow Highland Games at Barren River Lake State Resort Park, 12 miles from Glasgow, Kentucky. We had our 2002 AGM at these Games and had a great turnout.

Our host hotel will be the Quality Inn, 102 Gardner Lane, Cave City, Kentucky, just off of Interstate 65 at exit 53. We have 15 rooms reserved at a rate of \$42.00 plus tax. Please call (270) 773-3101 to make your reservation. Please mention that you are with Clan Pollock to receive the special rate. Quality Inn will hold these rooms for us until May 15, 2005. You can view this Inn at <http://www.musselmanhotels.com/> and then click on Quality Inn, Cave City, Kentucky.

We will hold our annual meeting at the Clan Pollock tent on Saturday, June 4, at 2:00 p.m. We are planning a picnic dinner at the Barren River State Park campground on Saturday evening. A.D. & Clara Ann Pollock and Gail and Mike Carden plan to camp again and host this picnic. Everyone seemed to have a great time in 2002 and we are hoping for a good turnout again in 2005!

For more information on the Games, contact the Glasgow Highland Games office at (270) 651-3141. Their fax number is (270) 651-9090. E-mail: ghg@glasgow-ky.com

WILLIAM WASHINGTON POLLOCK 57TH FAMILY REUNION

The William Washington Pollock 57th Family Reunion will be held June 5, 2005 at the Jones County Civic Center, Trenton, North Carolina from 11 AM - 2 PM. Anyone in the area on that date are invited to attend.

~Linda (Mrs. Harold) Pollock, Chair



If you have plans to be in Scotland in August this year, you might want to try to be in Edinburgh on August 21st for this event. Twenty-six countries will join the celebration. The goal is to have 10,000 people participating in the parade. For more information, contact Pipefest 2005, 45 Frederick Street, Edinburgh EH2 1EP Scotland
Tel: +44 (0) 131 220 5559 www.pipefest.com

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

The Pollock Lineage of Alexander Hamilton

The recent bestseller about Alexander Hamilton by Ron Chernow is 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 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.

One fact not commonly known about Hamilton, even among members of Clan Pollock, is that he was a Pollock. In fact he was 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. He was also a grandson of the Laird of the Hamilton family of Scotland, 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 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, daughter 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 a second one 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

2005 CLAN POLLOCK DUES

\$15.00 U.S. dollars – Please mail to: Clara Ann Pollock
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Nashville, Tennessee 37205-1308

NAME:

ADDRESS:

ZIP CODE:

TELEPHONE:

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

serious problems arose between them, ending in Rachel's abrupt departure from the household in 1750. Laven, 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 Laven, 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.

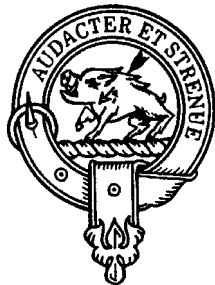
Four years after James Hamilton's departure, Alexander and his mother both took violently sick from a tropical fever, which he survived and she did not. A series of familial and legal crises followed, which Ron Chernow summarizes as follows: "Let us pause to tally the grim catalog of disasters that had 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 International

Clan Pollock International

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Motto: Boldly and Strongly

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REMEMBER

CLAN POLLOCK 2005 AGM

JUNE 2 - JUNE 5, 2005

Glasgow Highland Games
Barren River Lake State Resort Park
12 miles from Glasgow, Kentucky.