

The Pollag
July 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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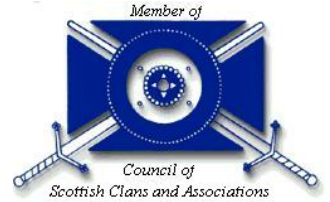
Audacter et Strenue
Boldly and Strongly

CLAN POLLOCK INTERNATIONAL

THE POLLAG

Cinnedah Pollag -- A Pool of Information

Words from the President...



Summer is here and not just on the calendar? Wherever you are, we hope you are having a good summer.

We had a good response to our May dues reminder letter. Thank you to all who sent in their dues. Several of you mentioned how proud you are to be a member of Clan Pollock. We always appreciate your remarks.

We are looking forward to attending the Grandfather Mountain Games this month. If you are there, please stop by Clan Pollock's tent. Ben & Merle Stone do a great job at this event.

Thanks to all our Commissioners who have had or are having Clan Pollock tents at games this year. Look for reports of Games in this issue.

A special thanks to Ben Stone and his son, Tim, who represented Clan Pollock at the Polk Family Reunion recently. We really appreciate them going and talking to lots of people, according to Ben.

The following officers were re-elected at the AGM June 4th to serve a two year term.

President A.D. Pollock, Jr.
Vice President Ben Stone
Secretary Clara Ann Pollock
Treasurer Howard Pollock

Best Wishes,
A. D. Pollock, Jr.
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Editor's Notes

The deadline for submissions for the next issue of The Pollag is September 25th. Remember Clan Pollock members enjoy hearing your news. So send your news, to the editor, Beth Avery, at averyb@mail.otherwhen.com

Get to know.....

Our New Members

Blair M. Pogue, Dallas, Texas
Gerald S. Polk, Pasadena, Texas *
Peter R. Pollock, Vero Beach, Florida
Wayne Pollock, Winchester, Tennessee
Vicky Seibel, Ft. Worth, Texas
Daniel E. Umbstead, Oxford, Ohio

* ☐ Former Member, Rejoining

Our Vice President... Ben Stone's Scottish Journey

All my life my Mother impressed upon me my Scottish Heritage. She remembered her Grandmother, Maggie Mcaull Pollock as a sweet little lady with a Scottish brogue. A Scottish Heritage Society was organized in this community in 1985. Mr. Albert Clark got me into the Society. He was a very irascible gentleman who somehow took a liking to me. He retired to New Bern after many years as Washington Bureau Chief of the Wall Street Journal. I assumed I was of Clan McCall a sept of Clan Donald. I ordered a McCall kilt from Scotland.

While reading *The Highlander*, I noticed an ad for Clan Pollock. I had not known that Pollock was Scottish or that it was a real Clan. I wrote President Dick Pollock and joined the Clan. I got a Pollock kilt. I met Rob and Rosemary Pollock while attending the Loch Norman Highland Games. They have been incredibly nice to us and are still my mentors.

About a year after I joined the Clan, Rob decided to resign from being North Carolina Commissioner. Dick Pollock asked for volunteers. I had recently retired from medical practice and volunteered explaining that I had been a member for only a year. Dick and Rob convinced me to become Commissioner. Without Rob and Rosemary's help I would have really floundered. I still consider Rob the real North Carolina Commissioner.

Later under President A.D. Pollock I was elected Vice President of Clan Pollock. A post I was happy to be re-elected to this year. I really enjoy running the Pollock tent at various NC games. I enjoy attending events out of NC even more because I can roam around a bit more. I enjoy talking to folks that visit the tent even the ones that think we are a Polish Clan!

~Ben Stone

Flowers of the Forest

I was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Bob Dunbar, a charter member of Clan Pollock. Bob, and his wife Marion Pollock Dunbar, were staunch supporters of our efforts to establish Clan Pollock in the United States and Canada. That support continued over the many years since our first annual meeting at Grandfather Mountain in 1980. A few years before Clan Pollock was founded, Bob launched a dedicated effort that resulted in the founding of Clan Dunbar in the United States. The knowledge he gained from that successful effort he readily shared with me and especially with our founder, Rhys Pollock. Rhys told me that Bob Dunbar's counsel and advice was invaluable to his early efforts. Bob enjoyed a great sense of humor and he was ever ready with a joke or a funny story. He sincerely loved to

join with friends and fellow Scotsmen at Scottish games and festivals in many parts of our great country. Bob joined the Army just before the outbreak of World War II, and served in the Pacific Theater under General Douglas MacArthur. In the fight to liberate the Philippine Islands, he was with one of the lead combat units that liberated a Japanese prisoner of war camp. Marion told me the memory of that day never left him. Bob was ninety years old when he passed away. He will be missed by his family and his many friends.

Well done, Bob. Be thou at peace.

~Bill Pollock

HIGHLAND GAMES

Upcoming Games

ESTES PARK-LONGS PEAK SCOTTISH IRISH FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 8 □ 11

Clan Pollock will again have a tent at the Colorado Estes Park-longs Peak Scottish Irish Festival. It promises to be another fantastic weekend. Our own Peggy & Kent Woodward are Clan chairs again this year and will be very busy with all their activities in making the Festival another success. So if you can come and help staff the Clan Pollock tent, meet old and new friends and help Clan Pollock once again win an award for the Clan presentation – we won best Clan in 1991, Parade 1992 and 1996, and Field in 1994 and 1996 -- let Matt Pollock know. Join the parade through downtown, starting at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday. Come to Estes Park for the Festival. Renew your spirits, dance to the pipes, and hear the cannons roar.

HEART OF TENNESSEE SCOTTISH CELEBRATION October 1-2

The 10th annual Tennessee Highland Games will take place October 1st and 2nd. This is the first year the Games will be held on both Saturday and Sunday. Last year the location moved to the site of the Tennessee Renaissance Festival grounds, near Triune, TN.

We would like to invite all our Tennessee members as well as anyone else who can make it. We hope to have the same tent location as last year. We were just across from the entertainment pavilion last year. This year Alex Beaton will be performing and also Clann An Drumma and others. For more information, check out the web site at <http://www.hotsc.com>

~ A. D. and Clara Ann Pollock

REPORTS

Bethabara Celtic Festival Winston □ Salem NC May 13 □ 14, 2005.

The 5th annual Bethabara Celtic Festival was held at Historic Bethabara park in Winston □ Salem NC on May 13 and 14. Friday night was a concert by Celtic band from Fancy Gap NC and a Piper.

Clans gathered Saturday am at 8:00 am to set up tents. The Clan tents and performance stage was set up a stockade. The vendors, food tents and athletic events were set up on the main street of the settlement and on adjacent greenways.



Wilson Pollock & Dad
enjoy the day.

At noon, there was parade of tartans led by the massed bands. The tents were spacious with plenty of room between them. They were in a prime position to enjoy the entertainment which went on continuously between 10 am and 4:30 pm except for a break for the parade of tartans.

The Pollock tent had many visitors. People with Pollock kin and/or friends were given information sheets, candy and pens. The place crawled with dogs and kids. There was a military reenactment with soldiers and their female camp followers of French & Indian war, and Revolutionary war eras.

The folks in charge of the festival were helpful and friendly. The price of the tent rental was \$25.00 -- and admission free -- was a deal too good to turn down. I certainly think the time spent and effort were worthwhile. Thank you,

~Ben Stone

KANSAS CITY HIGHLAND GAMES

The Kansas City Highland Games turned out to be a 50/50 success. From early morning opening until noon the rain was heavy. At noon it stopped, the sun came out, and so did the crowds.

The tent provided to Clan Pollock was flawed. Supposedly shaped like a pyramid, the top collapsed and changed the shape to that of a bathtub. We spent all morning moving books, supplies, etc. to keep them out of the rain, and did reasonably well. We didn't, however, manage to keep ourselves dry, and our attire, and the Pollock banner finally got aired out, and dry, about 3:00 PM.

Our signers were related to Pogue and Pollock, and one had the maiden name, Poage. We put the clan stamp on children's books and probably had a couple dozen of those callers.

Aye,
~Bob Slemmons

JAMES K. POLK FAMILY REUNION

Descendants of the James K. Polk family had their biannual reunion in Pineville NC, This is the area where President Polk was born. There is a state park with replicas of the Polk farm.

Ben Stone (kilted) represented Clan Pollock at the afternoon barbecue on June 11, 2005. Most of the attendees had some knowledge of the Pollock Polk connection. Some Clan members and former members were present. John Polk, Clan Historian was present as were Mr. & Mrs. Charles Morgan who had attended the AGM in Glasgow KY the week before.



Pollock set up at J. K. Polk reunion

I had prepared 10 information packets and found that they were not enough. I gave out all I had, then gave out my calling cards with Clan Pollock information. I hope we get some new members and some former members re-newing their memberships.

The Polks were gracious and hospitable, and we enjoyed being with them

~ Ben Stone

Scottish Highland Games in Prescott, Arizona

First Annual Scottish Highland Games were held Saturday, May 21, 2005 in Prescott, Arizona. The location was at Watson Lake which has a large open green area surrounded by outcroppings of granite rock. The weather was sunny and hot with only a slight, welcome breeze.

We had a total of 25 Clans, 5 Societies and 3 Pipe Bands, athletic competitions, a Tea Room pavilion, as well as sheep and duck herding demonstrations; these were ongoing throughout the day. At one point in the afternoon, while a sheep herding demonstration was in progress, something spooked the sheep and off they ran, across the open grassed area and up into the rocky area just outside the Games. Those little sheep dogs are so dedicated that the one working the herd did not return (20 minutes later) until she had all of the sheep accounted for and back in their places. They are magnificent at their jobs.

We had a pleasant visit from Clan Pollock member, Richard Palmer. He, along with Robert Pollock assisted in carrying the name banner and the Pollock tartan flag in the opening ceremonies. My thanks for their participation and we look forward to next year's event.

~Carol Pollock Black



GLASGOW (KY) HIGHLAND GAMES

Despite typical hot, humid Kentucky June weather, we had a good turnout and time at the Glasgow Games. Thanks to everyone who came by the tent — even if they were just looking for a little shade to be in! It is always good to be with old friends like Rob and Rosemary Pollock, Ben & Merle Stone, Phil Pogue, Charlene Young, Gail and Mike Carden, Mike, Carla and Justin Cardin and to make new friends like Barbara and

Thomas Morgan who came all the way from Connecticut to attend the Games and AGM. We had over 30 people on Saturday stop by the tent including members from North Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, California, Arizona and Connecticut.

It was especially nice to have several of my "Western" first cousins and spouses present: Charles & Patty Pollock, Tom & Joan Pollock, Bill & Diana Pollock, John and Patty Pollock Maher and Nancie Pollock Maser.

We had 15 members present for the picnic and meeting on Saturday evening at the Barren River State Park campground. Special thanks to Gail & Mike Carden for co-hosting the picnic.

~A.D. and Clara Pollock



Clan Pollock Tent at the Glasgow Games. Andrew Atkins (Clan Wallace) stops by for a talk with A.D. Pollock, and Rob and Rosemary Pollock.



Pollock cousins at a reunion in Greenville, KY, June 6, 2005 after the Glasgow Highland Games. Front Row: Tom & Charles Pollock. Back Row: A.D. Pollock, Mary Pollock Miller, Patty Pollock Maher, Bill Pollock, Betty Pollock Springer, Nancie Pollock Maser, Ann Pollock Hill, Harry Pollock

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

IN THE BEGINNING – THE EARTHWORK FORT AT POLLOK

Our family took its name, Pollock, from the place name of an area along the Whitecart River in Renfrewshire bordering on what is now the southwestern edge of the city of Glasgow. In present day maps you will find the name Pollockshaws assigned to the northern portion of this area, including Pollock Country Park where the Maxwells of Pollock have their family seat – at Pollock House. It was known from ancient times as Pollok, long before our progenitors arrived there. The name comes from the words “pol” for a slow moving stream or pool, and “ok” for the oak forests native to the area.

In the second half of the 12th century when Peter, son of Fulbert, was first granted the lands of Pollok by Walter FitzAlan, the first Steward of Scotland, it was no doubt mostly forested and rather sparsely inhabited. We have almost no information about the existing populace and prior chieftans of the area, but we can safely assume that they were resentful and suspicious of the new foreign authorities that had been thrust upon them by King David. As vassal to Walter, the new laird of Pollok was expected to take control of the area and provide armed troops in support of his overlord's causes when called on. There was, however, no ready castle or fortification of the type whose remnants we now see all over Scotland in which to take up residence as his seat of power. Those were built in a later period. Peter and the other followers of Walter FitzAlan in Renfrew, as well as Walter himself, were therefore faced with an immediate problem of establishing secure bases from which they could begin to exercise their power.

What did they do? It was not practical to immediately set about building full size, stone-walled fortresses at that time. That would have been far too labor intensive, expensive, and time consuming. In this initial period of Scottish feudalization something far more modest would have had to suffice, but something that was effectively defensible. The logical choice would most likely have been a simple earthwork and timber fortification which could be constructed with relative ease. Such structures were indeed built by the earliest Norman followers of King David in southern Scotland, but they are not easily discernible today, more than eight centuries later, because they were abandoned for grander dwellings and left to the ravages of time and weather.

But nature has not erased all trace of these early earthwork forts. Not only is it still possible find the remains of some of them today but it is entirely possible that the first actual residence of the sons of Fulbert in Pollok is among these! In fact, there is an earthwork formation on the original lands of Pollok which is a strong candidate for this honor. It has not been recognized as such, and I have never visited it, but it is real enough - let me explain.

An article entitled “The Earthwork at Camphill in Glasgow”, by H. Fairhurst and J. G. Scott, published in the Proceedings of Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Volume LXXXV, p.146 (1950-51), recently came to my attention. It describes the archaeological investigation of an earthwork formation on a drumlin (elongated hill or ridge) at Camphill which is at the eastern edge of Pollockshaws, adjacent to Langside, site of the last battle in the cause of Mary, Queen of Scots. It is located near the crest of the drumlin from which “on a clear day it is possible to see far down the River Clyde past Dumbarton to the Argyll Hills....the site would form a superb signaling station or beacon.” What the archaeological excavations revealed, which was a surprise, was that the “camp,” as it is called, did not date back to an Iron Age or Roman era origin as had been expected, but to the late medieval period, precisely the time that Walter FitzAlan was given the lands of Renfrew by David I. It seems only logical to conclude that this particular fort or camp was erected either at the direction of Walter himself or by whichever of his vassals was given this particular piece of land.

It is not this earthwork at Camphill that might have been the first home of Peter and Robert of Pollok, but another one located not far to the West. At the end of the article the authors make the following observation: “The possibility of the ditch being the primary feature was suggested by a visit to **a site one and a half miles to the west of Camphill, in the North Wood of Pollok House (Nat. Grid ref 26/557627). This is again located on a drumlin.... A medieval date is almost certainly indicated for this ‘fort’ at Pollok.**”

This description points to a site on the north side of the Whitecart squarely within the lands of Pollok that were

first granted by Walter FitzAlan to Peter of Pollok sometime in the final third of the 12th century. Although this area was later taken over by the Maxwell family and came to be known as Nether Pollock and seat of the Maxwells of Pollock, such was not the case at the outset. The Maxwells did not enter this area until about a century after its initial enfeoffment, and Pollok was not divided into its Upper and Lower (Nether) portions before the Maxwells' arrival. This was the original foef of Pollok. See for example "A History of Mearns Parsh", J. A. Strang, 1939, p.264. But if it indeed dates to the late medieval era, as Fairhurst strongly believes, who else could have ordered its construction but the new laird of the land on which it was erected? It seems almost certain therefore that this modest earthwork on the drumlin in the North Wood of Pollock House was in fact the first seat of our Pollock family.

The Royal Commission of Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) maintains the National Monuments Register of Scotland, with detailed information about more than 7000 ancient structures. Among them is the earthwork in the Pollock Country Park, which is identified as NS56SE 33 and located on the National Grid Reference at NS 5566 6263. Following is the description of this structure in the Register:

This earthwork comprises a roughly circular enclosure some 30.0m in diameter, surrounded by a deep moat 9.0m wide, interrupted on the E side by a causeway, 8.0m in width. But for a modern drainage cut, this moat would fill with water. There are traces of inner and outer banks formed by upcast from the ditch. The whole earthwork is densely covered by trees and shrubs.

H Fairhurst and J G Scott 1953; Visited by OS (J L D) 1 April 1954. Excavations carried out by Glasgow Archaeol Soc in 1959-60 showed that a roughly circular house, 16' in internal diameter, with a well-made, central post socket had stood just S of the centre of the enclosure. Its site had been levelled by removing earth and placing cobbles. An inner foundation kerb of stone was found under the inner bank of the enclosure, and the entrance causeway was paved and kerbed. Finds include three stones with incomplete perforation, two perforated shale discs, and the upper stone of a rotary quern.

Talbot (1973) suggests that this feature, comparable with others in the vicinity (NS46SE 3, NS56SW 4, and NS56SE 32) was a Norman ring-work.

Thus, this earthwork is clearly identified with the first Norman overlords of the area. A quick check of the map shows that the site of the Pollok fort is strategically located very much like the Camphill fort, only further to the West. Situated as it is on a drumlin, with appropriate clearing of trees it too would no doubt have had a fine view up the Clyde estuary and stood guardian on the western flank of Walter FitzAlan's Renfreshire fiefdom.

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

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

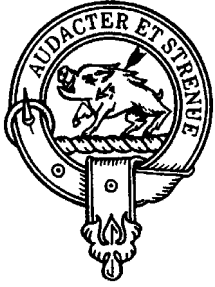
We have redone the mailing list, so if your name, title, or address is incorrect, please let us know.

**~Beth Avery
Editor**

O Scotia! my dear, my native soil!
For whom my warmest wish to heaven is sent;
Long may thy hardy sons of rustic toil
Be blest with health, and peace, and sweet content.
~ Robert Burns

Clan Pollock International

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Motto: Boldly and Strongly

Prefix First Middle Last Suffix
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So long as we love we serve;
so long as we are loved by others,
I would almost say that we are indispensable;
and no man is useless while he has a friend.

~ Robert Louis Stevenson