

CLAN POLLOCK INTERNATIONAL

THE POLLAG

Cinnedah Pollag -- A Pool of Information



Words from the President...

It is hard to believe another year is drawing to a close. We hope all of you are looking forward to the holiday season.

We are sorry we had to miss the Estes Park games this year, but we know that Kitty Pollock with the help of her parents, Bill and Anne, did a great job hosting these games.

We would like to thank everyone who hosted Clan Pollock tents at Scottish Games this year. We appreciate everyone who takes their time and energy to have a Clan Pollock presence at games from California to North Carolina and from Virginia to Florida. Also this year we had Pollock representation at The Gathering in Edinburgh, Scotland. Thanks to the Stones - Tim, Kelly, Ben and Merle - and Canadian, Andy Pollock, for their participation in these events. We have already had a new member join from Edinburgh.

Thanks also to Ben Stone, Howard Pollock, John Polk, Richard Pollock, Phillip Pogue, Bill Pollock and Beth and Mike Avery for their continued service to Clan Pollock as Vice President - Treasurer - Historian - Genealogist - Chaplain - Membership Director and Pollag Editors. We appreciate all your hard work more than we can say.

We would like to encourage all our members to send us your news - your articles - your genealogy questions - and items of interest for future articles in our newsletter. Some of you sent in your military members a few months ago. Unfortunately we had a computer crash and lost your e-mail! We apologize -if you'll resend the names, we'll give it a go again!

Our very best wishes to each of you and your families for a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

A.D. and Clara Ann Pollock

The Pollag
November 2009

"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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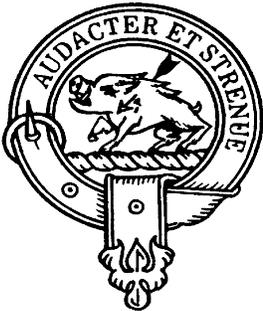
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Editor's Notes

The deadline for submissions for the next issue of The Pollag is December 15th. Remember Clan Pollock members enjoy hearing your news. So send your news, to the editor, Beth Avery, at averyb@mail.otherwhen.com

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

Robert Irvin Harper, Winston-Salem, N.C.

Bryan Pollock, Tacoma, WA

I would like to thank everyone for their prayer support over the past few months for my husband, Bryan Pollock. He was called home to his Lord and Saviour on Monday, November 9. He is now completely healed from his cancer! We are surrounded by many loving family members and friends. My son, David, played the pipes for him shortly before his passing and intends to play Amazing Grace at the services. Bryan loved his Scottish heritage and instilled that love upon his nine children. His passing leaves a huge hole in our lives, but God, in His mercy, will give us the strength to carry on.



Rejoicing in the goodness of God,

Susan Pollock

www.bryanpollock.blogspot.com

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Memberships received since our last Pollag

Anne W. McGeehan, Spring, TX *

Dr. James David Polk, Friendswood, TX

Tom H.B. Pollok, Richmond, Va *

William C. (Bill) Pollock, Winston Salem, NC *

Scott Pollock, Edinburgh, Scotland

*Rejoin

MEMBER NEWS



Rosemary and Rob Pollock are shown here with their granddaughter, Cathy Pollock. Cathy Graduated as valedictorian of South West Christian High School in May. She is now attending Texas A&M University. Congratulations to Cathy!

Ralph Pollock has moved to Orangeville, Ontario and has decided it is time to resign his position as a Commissioner in Clan Pollock. He has decided he is "getting to old for it." (his words not ours). So if you are interested in being Commissioner for Ontario, please contact A.D.

Laverne Raisch, her grandson, Brad Acton, and his mother, her daughter, Nancy Acton, taken Sept 2009 on Brad's first leave in the Navy. He enlisted last year, was called up in January this year and is now on an aircraft carrier in the Persian Gulf and very proud to be there. And we are very proud of him





Jordan Pleasants (Pollock descendant, son of Chrystin [Pollock] and Lonnie Pleasants), West Point Class of 2012, completed his Plebe year and had a great summer participating in Army exercises. He spent several weeks at Camp Buckner for Cadet Field Training and then was at Fort Knox for armored maneuvers. Jordan was a platoon leader of a tank patrol and led eight tanks to victory over the competition. He also was one of 8 cadets chosen out of their class (approximately 1000) as a finalist for the 'soldier of the summer'. This semester he declared his major, and is planning on getting a B.S. in Environmental Engineering. He plans on branching as an Armor Officer upon graduation.

THE WEARING OF SCOTTISH ATTIRE

It's that time of year when we again pull out our Scottish attire to wear for the holidays. If you are interested in the history of attire, how to wear the kilt, or how to wear the sash, check out the Tartan Authority's page on Highland dress.. <http://www.tartansauthority.com/>

~ Beth Avery

POLLOCK DNA PROJECT - WE NEED YOU

There have been previous announcements about DNA testing for Pollocks and related families. This is gathering momentum and more than 40 donors have submitted samples so far. We still need more people to join the project as there are many lines in the family and still many unanswered questions. We are looking for contributors from all forms of the name, be it Pollock, Polk, Pogue, or whatever. As the results come in it is ever more apparent that we are all one and the same family, regardless of spelling.

DNA samples are very easy to take - it is done by swabbing the inside of the cheek for a saliva sample. You just need to order a kit, take the sample and mail it back to the lab for testing. It usually takes 3-4 weeks to get the results back and put into the database for comparison with other donors. Since we are testing for male line (Y-chromosome) DNA the sample has to come from a male with surname Pollock/Polk/Pogue, etc.

There are two testing services that we have been using:

-- FTDNA offers 12, 25, 37 and 67 marker tests which usually cost \$109, \$129, \$139 and \$248 respectively but if you join through the Pollock Project or Polk Project they are on sale right now at \$99, \$124, \$119 (now on sale), and \$209. No charge to join. Just go to <http://www.worldfamilies.net/surnames/pollock> and register.

- Ancestry.com does 33 and 46 marker tests at a cost of \$99 or \$149. Go to <http://dna.ancestry.com/viewConsole.aspx>.

From experience we know it is much better to do one of the higher marker number tests. I strongly recommend a minimum of 33 markers. 46 or 67 would be best.

Please consider joining the project and contributing a sample, and don't hesitate to contact me at jfpolk@comcast.net for additional information.

~ John Polk, Clan Historian

Remember the Elk?

Many of us remember the spectacular elk in Estes Park, CO. Most of this video was filmed on or near the golf course by the lake in Estes Park. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOaJ-wbMoRM&feature=sub>

~ Ruth Woodward

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

OLIVER POLLOCK, UNSUNG HERO OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Oliver Pollock is not a name that is often highlighted in histories of the American Revolution, but his remarkable dedication and patriotism made a crucial difference to the American cause. It is a story in which we in Clan Pollock can take considerable pride, all the more remarkable considering his humble origins and the brief time he actually lived in America before the revolution.

He was born in Ireland about 1737 and grew up in the area known as Bready, in the parish of Donagheady, on the east side of the River Foyle in County Tyrone. His father, Jared, appears as "Jared Poak" on the 1745 muster roll for the Abercorn Estates which included this area. Around 1760 Jared and two of his sons, Oliver and James, emigrated to America and settled in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, a growing center for newly arrived Scotch-Irish. They do not appear to have been affluent but Oliver's later writings and accomplishments make clear that he was well educated and moved with ease in establishment circles. Their financial circumstances in Ireland are conveyed in a rather plaintive letter written by Oliver's brother Charles to him in 1767.

June the 10th 1767

Dear Brother -

I received yours which gives me pleasure to hear of your welfare. I am to let you know that my misfortunes hurt me so much that I will be obliged to go to you if you do not come home. Having but one cow was obliged to sell her from my poor helpless family. Your uncle John & Miss Rosey desires you to come home as soon as possible. As for brother Thomas he is very cruel to me, notwithstanding he sits free, your father's land paying the whole rent & something coming in besides, which I could (sic). Wish you were at home to enjoy, for it would give me the greatest pleasure imaginable. I have wrote to Brother James about my son, as you wrote to me. I add no more but remain your loving Brother till death.

Charles Pollock
Maghremeson

(Magheramason, as it is now spelled, is a small town about 5 miles southwest of Londonderry city).

The letter was addressed to Oliver care of Mr. Wallace, at the Sign of the Indian Queen, Philadelphia. He had moved here from Carlisle a few years earlier and begun his career as a merchant and trader, an enterprise that would make him a very wealthy man in just a few years. We do not know how this began but he clearly won the confidence of local merchants and was soon shipping cargos to and from the West Indies, trading from port to port. Billing records show a thriving business in a wide variety of merchandise across the Caribbean. He initially established a main office in Havana where he formed a friendship with Father Thomas Butler, President of the Jesuit College in Havana, and through him with Alexander ("Don Alejandro") O'Reilly, the Governor General of Cuba, also an Irishman. Don Alejandro became a lifelong friend of Oliver, and an important ally of the United States in the upcoming Revolutionary War.

The balance of power in colonial America was undergoing a major realignment at this time as a consequence of the British defeat of the French in the Seven Years War. At the Peace of Paris in 1763 France ceded Canada to the British and Louisiana to Spain, and Spain gave Florida to Britain in exchange for the return of Havana which had been lost to Britain the previous year. Oliver Pollock found a niche for his considerable abilities and energy in this fast changing world. Seeing the growing commercial potential of the Mississippi Valley now under Spanish Control, and probably on the advice of O'Reilly, he moved to New Orleans in 1768. It was a timely decision.

For one thing, he soon married Margaret O'Brien, a member of the well connected Ormond family of Southern Ireland. For another, this was in fact a critical moment in the history of New Orleans, a city completely French in its history and culture but suddenly placed under Spanish rule, with no say in the matter. The population was not happy with this development and a non-violent rebellion occurred in October 1768. Don O'Reilly, considered one of Spain's top generals, was then made Governor of New Orleans and arrived with 2600 troops to take real control of the city in September 1769.

This put an end to any question as to who was in charge but it also provoked a severe crisis due to the depletion of food supplies. The arrival of the Spanish troops had almost doubled the population and reserves were soon used up, leaving the city in serious danger of famine. It was a fortuitous moment in Oliver Pollock's life. He immediately came

to the city's aid with a shipload of grain and flour from Philadelphia. This arrived just as the price was skyrocketing, but rather than take personal advantage of the situation he made the provisions available to Don O'Reilly at half the going rate and got the city through its crisis.

His generosity earned Oliver the lasting gratitude of the Spanish authorities and people of New Orleans. O'Reilly gave him free trading rights within all of the Louisiana territory now controlled by Spain. This concession was the foundation of Oliver Pollock's personal fortune. In the ensuing years, years leading up to the American Revolution, he built a large business supplying goods and trading throughout the Mississippi valley. By the start of the war he had in fact become one of the wealthiest men in the United States.

We really know almost nothing about Oliver Pollock's early life and what formed his personal political views, but there can be no doubt about his total commitment to the American cause once the Revolution began, a commitment that came at great personal cost. His widespread business network and prominence at New Orleans put him in a pivotal position to promote a friendly alliance with Spain and secure their help in controlling the Mississippi valley and the Gulf of Mexico during the war. This is not a well known chapter in the history of the war, but its seeming unimportance is really a testament to the effectiveness of his unceasing efforts to achieve just that.

At the start of the war Oliver wrote many letters to the Continental Congress stressing the strategic importance of the Mississippi Valley. In June 1777 Congress appointed him Commercial Agent for the United States in New Orleans. It is not possible to give here a full account of his services during the war but we can say he almost singlehandedly ensured that the Mississippi Valley and Gulf coast region never became a strategic theatre for British engagement. He personally financed George Rogers Clark in his campaign against British in Illinois which ended with the remarkable victory at the Battle of Vincennes, securing the Northwest Territory for the United States. His strong relationship with General Bernardo de Galvez, the Governor of New Orleans after 1777, led to the crucial Spanish military commitment on the American side in the war, something rarely recognized. Oliver supplied and personally accompanied Galvez's forces in their successful campaign against the British garrisons in the region, successively capturing Manchac and Baton Rouge on the Mississippi, and Mobile and Pensacola on the Gulf.

By the end of the war it is estimated that he personally contributed almost \$300,000 of his own funds, a huge sum equivalent to nearly a billion dollars in today's money. He did this unhesitatingly, without promise of reimbursement, and ended up deeply in debt by the time the war was over. On September 18th, 1782 Oliver Pollock sent a letter to the Continental Congress asking for reimbursement of some of the expenses that he had incurred on behalf of the American cause. It is a long and rather poignant statement of his situation at the time, concluding with the following passage:

"It has not been my Fortune to move on a splendid theatre, where the weary Actor frequently finds in the applause of his audience, new motives to Exertion. I dwelt in an Obscure Corner of the Universe alone and unsupported. I have labored without ceasing, I have neglected the road to affluence, I have exhausted my all, and plunged myself deeply into Debt, to support the Cause of America, in the hours of her distress, and when those who called themselves her Friends were daily deserting her. But these things I do not boast of, what I do boast of is, that I have a Heart still ready (had I the means) to bear sufferings, and make new sacrifices. I pray your Excellency to submit this Narrative to the indulgence of Congress. I am in their judgment, and in their Justice I repose the fullest Confidence. "

Congress was not forthcoming and Oliver ended up confined for his debts in Havana where he languished for more than a year, even after the War had been won and the peace treaty signed. It was only after his friend General Galvez returned from Spain and pledged his own personal funds on Oliver's behalf that he was released and allowed to return to the United States.

Oliver returned penniless to Carlisle where he lived for some years, engaged in various businesses and ran unsuccessfully for Congress. He was eventually repaid a substantial portion of his expenses through the efforts of his friend Thomas Jefferson, but this came very belatedly and he never regained his former wealth. Eventually he moved to Pinckneyville, Mississippi, where he lived out his years in the home of his daughter Mary, wife of Dr. Samuel Robinson, dying in 1823. His burial site is unknown and his portraits and personal effects were lost in a fire during the Civil War.

John F. Polk, PhD
Clan Historian, Clan Pollock International

GENEALOGY CORNER

GENEALOGY REQUESTS

Margaret Jane Pollock

My grandma **Margaret Jane Pollock** and her sister Jessie came to the Chicago area in the late 19th century, after her birth about 1869 in Dundee. She had a younger brother **Stephen** but he is lost to any record. The only record I have in Scotland is of Margaret's birth in Dundee to **Matthew Pollock and Elizabeth Mitchell**. Her grandma Janet Mitchell signed the birth certificate with an X.

Margaret married **C. C Murton** and moved to Oregon with him, where my father C.C. Murton and his sisters Ethelwyn and Wilhelmina were born. Ethelwyn died early in San Francisco, probably of porphyria complications following a miscarriage (speculation, as none were diagnosed, unfortunately). I have porphyria and got it from this Scottish line, and possibly (just possibly) also from my father's paternal grandma Rebecca Tustin Murton, who was born in Oxford, England.

If anyone also has porphyria from the Pollock line I would be interested in that as well. I did a lot of research at the local Mormon center but modern records are mostly absent for my family. Matthew Pollock and Elizabeth Mitchell of Dundee are completely absent except for the birth record of Margaret Jane Pollock. If you have information contact: rowina@earthlink.net

Benjamin Pollock

I am looking for information on my ancestor **Benjamin Pollock** who died in the Revolutionary War at the Battle of Brier's Creek north of Savannah, on 3 March 1779. He was with the North Carolina militia. Benjamin's wife was Mary Ward, whom he married 27 Dec 1769. Not sure her parentage. Their daughter Hannah married c 1789 **David Clark**, probably in Duplin Co, N C They are my ancestors. Benjamin and Mary had 4 children: William, Hannah, Elizabeth and John. I would appreciate any help anyone could give. Thanks. Laverne Raisch. boblara2@yahoo.com

Jessee Pollock, Jr.

I have been trying for years to find proof that Jessee Pollock, Jr. of Georgia is the son, and not grandson of Jessee Pollock, Sr.. Jessee, Sr. was a revolutionary patriot. DAR thinks Jr. is the grandson since Sr. was 51 years old when Jr. was born. I am finding no proof that this is true. I would appreciate ANY info or advice. Thanks. Carol Pollock crpollock@bellnet.south

GAME REPORTS

SEASIDE HIGHLAND GAMES

The 7th Annual Seaside Highland Games were held at Ventura, CA Seaside Park October 10 & 11. We hosted the Clan Pollock tent for the first time at these Games. Thanks to cousins Bob and Jeanette Pollock for their help with everything. They came over from Prescott, AZ with their daughter, Bobbie Jean. Their son, David, also stopped by. Our daughter, Beth Slough & sons, Austin & Ryan came on Sat. We were really pleased with the people who stopped by our tent who are Pollocks and/or have Pollock/Polk connections.

We also had a nice visit with Bobbi Kaslow, current owner (with husband) of Rattle & Snap Plantation in Mt. Pleasant, TN., 7 miles west of Columbia, TN.



A.D., Clara Ann, Jeannette and Bob Pollock at the Seaside Scottish Games, Ventura, CA, October 10, 2009

Rattle & Snap was originally built for George Polk, son of William Polk. William named the property "Rattle and Snap" after having won the land from the governor of North Carolina in a game of "rattle and snap". For more information, see the website, www.rattleandsnapplantation.com

~ A. D. and Clara Ann Pollock

FRESNO GAMES

It was a beautiful day for the Fresno Games. Great to see old friends again and enjoy the games. We didn't have a lot of inquiries about the Pollock Clan but we were there just in case. I know there are lots of Polks and Pollocks in the central valley and I hope to do better next year. Have a great Thanksgiving and A Merry Christmas.

~ C. Richard Bugg

GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN

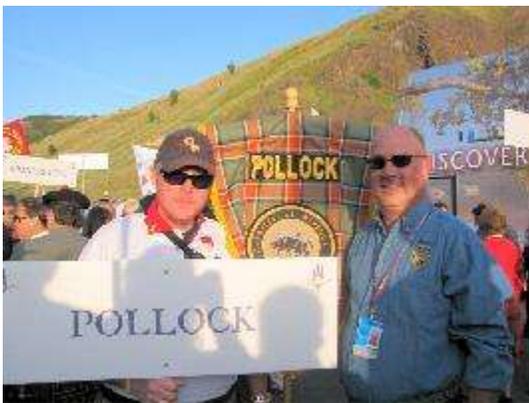
Tom and Carol Pollock of Clemson, S.C. attended the Grandfather Mountain Games again this year. First time attendees were their daughter, Dr. Ashely Pollock, Tom's sister, Myra Pollock Kosoff, her daughter, Stephanie Taylor, and her two daughters, Ryleigh and Raevyn. All of them are red-haired so they fit right in!

~ Carol Pollock

THE GATHERING, EDINBURGH

The North Carolina Pollocks spent the late summer and fall recovering from our wonderful trip to The Gathering in Edinburgh on July 25/26. The games were held on the grounds of Hollyrood Castle under the shadow of Arthur's seat. The games were some of the best run games I've had the pleasure of attending. Prince Charles opened the games and stayed for about an hour before being whisked away. To me, the highlight was the parade of tartans from Hollyrood Castle up the Royal Mile to Edinburgh Castle. Thousands of people lined both sides of the Royal Mile to cheer us on, with many screaming Pollock at the top of their lungs. In attendance was myself and my wife Kelly, Ben and Merle Stone, and a special thanks to Andy Pollock of Canada for making the trip across the pond and for helping out with the tent. Many locals were both interested and surprised with the Pollock's place in Scottish genealogy. We gave out many info packets so hopefully we will get many Scottish brethren joining the clan. This winter will be quiet but look forward to attending at least two games in 2010.

~Tim Stone, NC Commissioner



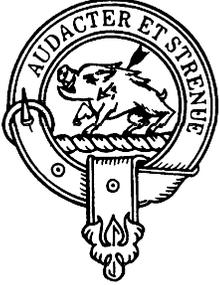
Andy Pollock and Tim Stone



The Gathering

Clan Pollock International

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Motto: Boldly and Strongly

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Sàmhach an Oidhch'
(Silent Night)

Sàmhach an oidhch', naomha an oidhch'
Saoghal 'na chadal; 's a-mach bho ar soills'
Moire is Iòseph an stàball fàs
Faire os cionn an Leinibh le gradh,
Cadal gu nèamhaidh sèimh,
Cadal gu nèamhaidh sèimh.

Sàmhach an oidhch', naomha an oidhch'
Buachaillean chunnaic an solas le boillsg',
Chual' iad an t-òran bho ainglean na Glòir,
Fada is farsaing an naidheachd ro-mhór,
Crìosd am fear-saoraidh tha dlùth,
Crìosd am fear-saoraidh tha dlùth,

Sàmhach an oidhch', naomha an oidhch'
Aon Mhac Dhé, saor bho fhoill,
Failte a' ghràidh anns an aghaidh cho caoin,
Latha nan gràs nis air tighinn duinn dlùth,
A Shlànaigheir, bhon thàinig Thu nuas,
A Shlànaigheir, bhon thàinig Thu nuas,