

The Pollag
May 2020

"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...



Well – who would have thought it? As we get ready for this issue of *The Pollag* the world as we have known it has been vastly changed. We hope that our Clan Pollock members are all safe and well and wherever you are we hope things will start to return to “normal” in the near future.

We are sorry that many of the Scottish Games and activities for this year have already been canceled. Three of the cancellations involve Games where Clan Pollock has had tents in the past – the Chicago area Games; the Glasgow, KY games; and the Grandfather Mountain Games in North Carolina. At the time of this writing the Estes Park, Colorado Games are still on – we will let our members know if there is a change. However since we are in the “elderly” category we will not be making the trip to Estes Park this year. We hope by 2021 we will once again enjoy these activities!

Thank you to everyone who has paid their 2020 Clan Pollock dues either by check or PayPal. If you do not wish to continue your membership, could you please let us know – our mailing and email address are on this page – so that we can let our able *Pollag* editors know. Also if you change your mailing or email address, please let us know.

We close these Words with a prayer that you will remain safe and well!

A. D. and Clara Ann Pollock

Written May 2, 2020

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<http://www.clanpollock.com/>

Clan Pollock Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/ClanPollock>

Pollag Deadline.

The deadline for submissions for the next issue of The Pollag is the 25th of the month previous to the issue. The Pollag is issued in February, May, August and November. Remember Clan Pollock members enjoy hearing your news. Send your news, to the editor, Beth Avery, at averyb@otherwhen.com

MEMBER (and FRIENDS) NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

Brian M Pollock, Salem, SC

Heather Pollock, Dallas. TX

Debra E Peters, Goodrich MI

Lana Walters, Richmond TX

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST



Thomas "Tommy" Pollock, 71, of Clemson, S.C. passed away August 31, 2019 at his home after a long battle with ALS. He is survived by his wife of 48 years Carol Susan Roberts Pollock, and was the loving father of Thomas Mitchell Pollock and Dr. Ashley Brooke Pollock Trexler, and proud grandfather of Hanna Rose Trexler. He was anxiously awaiting the birth of a second granddaughter, Ann Kathryn Pollock.

Born in Banbridge, GA in 1947 to parents Murnice Pollock and Anna Lois Smith Pollock. He graduated from the University of Georgia with a masters in agricultural engineering

He served as a lieutenant in the US Navy during the Vietnam War. He had been a member of Clan Pollock since 2007. Our sympathy to Carol and the family. Note: We had the privilege of meeting Tommy and Carol at several Grandfather Mountain Games over the years.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Tamassee DAR School Children's Fund (P.O.Box 8, Tamassee, SC 29686) or USA's Student Veteran's Resource Center (481 Tate Student Center, Athens, GA 30602)

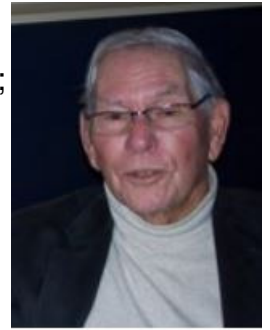
Thomas, "Tom" E. Pollock, 82, of Pollock Pines, CA passed away April 1, 2020 at his

home. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, two daughters, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He had been a member of Clan Pollock since 1996. Note: Tom was a first cousin of A.D. Pollock and Tom told us about the Grandfather Mountain Games and encouraged us to go many years ago. Two of Tom's brothers are also Clan Pollock members – Chuck and Bill Pollock.) Our sympathy to Joan and all his family.



Clifford E. Wheeler, 73, passed away December 16, 2019 in Columbus, Ohio. He was the father of Clan Pollock member, Kelly Loy. Clifford is survived by his wife, Judy; 4 children, 10 grandchildren & 1 great grandchild. Clifford's Mother was a Polk. Kelly said her father was very interested in his family's connection to the Polk line. Our sympathy to Kelly & all the family.

James Polk Farber, 86, Middletown, died Thursday July 25, 2019 at his home. He is survived by his wife of sixty-one years, Ocile deVore Farber of Middletown; three sons, Charles W. Farber of Brookline, Mass.; James P. Jr. and John Michael Farber of the farm; and seven grand children. He was a graduate of Duke University and of the National War College, Ft. McNair, Washington.



A retired senior foreign service officer and defense executive died Thursday he entered the diplomatic service in 1958 following service in the Air Force. His early assignments included tours at Bonn, Paris, the Congo, Malawi and South Africa. He was decorated with the State Department Meritorious Honor award for his service in the Congo. In 1983, at the rank of Minister-Counselor in the Senior Foreign Service, Mr. Farber took early retirement. He spent the next 12 years as deputy head of General Dynamics' corporate international department, during which he was deeply involved in that company's international programs. As an Air Force Reserve officer, Farber served 22 years active and reserve retiring in 1976 as a Major.

David Brownfield Horne, of Orlando, Florida, passed away on Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JUNE

1 – Carol Black; Michael A. Stroschio
 4 – John A. Pollock
 5 – Cheryl A. Zelek
 8 – Robert W. Parrish
 13 – James T. Pollock
 14 – John A. Pollock; James W. Pollock
 15 – Beth P. Avery
 17 – Virginia P. Stoops
 21 – Jack S. Pollock
 22 – David A. Pollock; David B. Horne
 25 – Robert W. Pollock
 26 – Larry M. Pollock; Steven A. Mitchell III
 28 – Anita L. Pollock

JULY

2 – Richard H. Pollock
 3 – Jerald C. Pollock
 5 – William W. Pollock; Mark W. Pollock; Daniel Polk
 10 – Thomas J. Morgan

18 – Thomas Pollock
 19 – Sandra G. Pollock
 20 – William C. Pollock
 21 – Larry R. Pollock
 22 – Dawn M. Kurth; Larry C. Poague
 28 – Jerry C. Pollock
 30 – Joyce Pollock

AUGUST

1 – Carolyn L. Pollock; Gary M. Pollock
 2 – Hal G. Hardin
 5 – Dorothy G. Lydecker
 15 – Debra D. Munn
 18 – Vicky P. Seibel; W. John Espey
 20 – Sandra N. Harriman
 21 – Mary L. Anderson; Larry R. Pollock
 22 – Robert D. Pollock
 23 – Nelle P. Kost
 24 – Andy W. Pollock
 30 – Archie D. Pollock III; Nancy P. DeShazo

If you don't see your birthday listed, please let us know. We don't want to leave any of our members out. Thanks. Clara Ann Pollock, Clan Pollock Secretary, apollockis@comcast.net

NEWS OF THE GAMES

UPCOMING GAMES AND EVENTS

Many games have been canceled this year. We will miss seeing all our friends and family there, but hope to see you next year.

GAMES CANCELLED

Central New York Scottish Games & Festival,
Chicago Scots Highland Games
Colorado Scottish Festival & Rocky Mountain Highland Games, Denver, Colorado
Garrett County Celtic Festival, Maryland
Glasgow, KY Highland Games
Grandfather Mountain Highland Games
Long Island Festival & Highland Game, Old Wesbury, NY
Ohio Scottish Games

GAMES STILL SCHEDULED AS OF MAY 5, 2020. Make sure to check the game's website before making plans to attend.

McMinville Scottish Festival, Oregon

www.macscottishfest.com

June 13 & 14, 2020

Longs Peak Scottish-Irish Highland Festival, Estes Park, CO

www.scotfest.com

Sept. 11-13, 2020

Bitterroot Celtic Games & Gathering Montana

www.bcgq.org

Aug 15 & 16, 2020

Virginia Scottish Games & Festival, Alexandria

www.vascottishgames.org

Sept 5 & 6, 2020

Longs Peak Scottish-Irish Highland Festival, Estes Park, CO.

www.scotfest.com

Sept. 11-13, 2020



THE GENEALOGY TREE

Most of you have seen photographs of the Pollok Castle in Mearns, Renfrewshire, Scotland. Do you realize that there have actually been three castles on the same site?

Research and reporting in the 20th Century described the First Castle as having been built in the 12th Century. It was described as a "Peel Tower" and was not configured as you would think when you would picture a castle in your mind. Below is a typical design of the castle built in this time frame and for the next several centuries:



The castles were built for occupancy and defensive purposes when opposing armies threatened the occupants.

Sir Robert Pollok, Bart, caused the Second Castle to be built starting in 1686. The builders kept remnants of the north and west walls from the First Castle.

Then disaster struck. On 31 July 1882 the Second Castle burned, leaving only the exterior walls. The castle remained in ruins for four years before the current owner, Jane Johnson Crawford-Pollok had the Third Castle built. In its most important time, the Pollok's had seventeen servants working in the castle.

In the late 1930's the British Army confiscated the castle for ammunition storage, leaving a wing of the castle for occupancy by the remaining Pollok's. In 1948, Jane Dunlop Fergusson-Pollok, the last Pollok to live in the castle, bought the nearby Pinmore House in Devon, and moved there, needing twelve trucks to carry all the Pollok treasures she had inherited.

For the first time in over 800 years, there were no Pollok's living in Pollok Castles.

There she tended a small garden and took care of her chickens and a goat.

Jane died 14 April 1950. In the August *Pollag*, I'll tell you what happened to all the furniture, etc. she had inherited.

Richard H. Pollock, Genealogist
Clan Pollock International

TRACING YOUR ANCESTRY – A FEW WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Ancestry Message Board: people post questions about specific ancestors <https://www.ancestry.com/boards/>

Find a Grave: Many people have contributed photographs of tombstones. <https://www.findagrave.com/>

Ancestor Roots Information: A to Z Country Information. <http://www.academic-genealogy.com/ancestorrootsinformationdatabases.htm> Start with country and find links to birth, death, marriage records, etc.

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

William Roe Polk passed away on 6 April 2020 at the age of 91. Bill had a long and distinguished career in government and academia specializing in middle-eastern affairs, going back to the 1950s. He wrote 25 books, mostly on Middle East history, foreign affairs and international policy. His latest was "Crusade and Jihad: The Thousand-Year War between the Muslim World and the Global North" published in 2018. The New York Times published an extensive obituary on Bill which can be seen at <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/10/us/william-polk-dead.html/>

Many of you may have read Bill's book "Polk's Folly" which is a narrative history of the Polk family over many generations beginning in 17th century Ireland and continuing up to the present day. It is a very readable and compelling saga with many stories of Polk family members' involvement in every period of American history.



Bill's brother George Polk was the CBS news correspondent, one of Edward R Murrow's protégés, who was assassinated while investigating political factions behind the scenes in Greece in 1948. The annual George Polk journalism awards are named for him. His murder came at a time of great international tension in the early stages of the cold war when the fate of Greece and neighboring Balkan countries was in the balance. The subsequent investigation and determination of responsibility was of huge geopolitical concern to the major powers at the time. The conviction a year later of a Greek journalist with limited connections to the

Greek communist party is still considered controversial, and the proceedings were regarded as a show trial by many.

Bill was a 19 year old student at Harvard at the time but temporarily dropped out to attend the trial and represent an *ad hoc* group called the Newsmen's Commission to Investigate the Murder of George Polk. The commission was independent, not representing or supported by any government or political interest, but was subject to heavy pressure not to complicate the proceedings or question the outcome. Bill was given a seat in the courtroom right next to William ("Wild Bill") Donovan, former head of OSS and effectively the creator of the CIA, who made sure Bill was fully aware of the Truman administration's perspective on the trial. It was of course a very formative experience in Bill's life and shaped the direction of his subsequent career. A number of books have been written about the episode. One of the best is "The Polk Conspiracy" by Kati Marton, the wife of CBC news anchor Peter Jennings. Bill has written his own book, the product of his lifelong pursuit of the subject, which is expected to be published posthumously this year under title "The First Casualty."

After his return and graduation from Harvard Bill went on to graduate work, receiving an MA from Oxford and PhD from Harvard in history. He remained and taught history at Harvard until 1961 when he was asked by President Kennedy to serve as the mid-east expert on the Policy and Planning Counsel at the Department of State. He served for four years but left to be a professor of history at the University of Chicago and afterwards the founding director of the Adlai Stevenson Institute of International Affairs. More information on Bill can be found in the NYT obituary and at the William R Polk online website <http://www.williampolk.com/index.html>

On a more personal note, Bill was my cousin (once removed). I cannot say I was a close friend but did have interactions with him and his daughters over the years, and did provide some help to him in the writing of "Polk's Folly." I admire his writing style which is always very readable and filled with anecdotes from his personal life and with many world leaders. I particular enjoyed his autobiography, "Personal History, Living in Interesting Times." The early part talks about our shared family history, and there is an absorbing account of his experiences during the trial following his brother's assassination in Greece.

Bill lived a very full and remarkable life at the forefront of world events. He was actively writing and productive to the very end, and left no regrets.

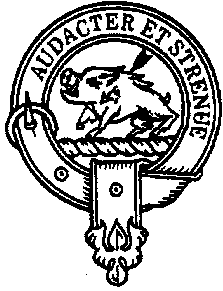
John F. Polk, PhD
Clan Historian
Clan Pollock International s

Polk Folk, or anyone interested – I gave a talk at the James K. Polk Conference at UT Knoxville last year on "Re-examining the Ancestry of James K Polk." In this I explained how the long held understanding about the ancestry of President Polk that traces him back to Robert and Magdalen Polk of Somerset County MD and Donegal, Ireland, is incorrect. I am referring here to the well-known accounts in "Polk Family and Kinsmen" by William H. Polk and "Polks of North Carolina and Tennessee" by Mrs. Frank M. Angellotti. I also presented the case for an alternative origin of President Polk's family going back Cecil County Maryland.

I have written a 20 page paper which covers the topic in detail and has all the references. It will be published in the conference proceedings sometime next year. If you would like a copy now please contact me directly at jfpolk@comcast.net I am only sending it out in paper copy and asking \$5 to cover my expenses. Thank you.

Clan Pollock International

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Motto: *Boldly and Strongly*

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DOWN MEMORY LANE

For some of our newer members – some old Pollag articles from years past.

VOL 1, NO. 1, JANUARY, 1980

“Pollock of that Ilk (Ilk means Clan) among the most ancient clans of Scotland had its own motto and home land. The Clan took its name from the land, “Pollog” the Gaelic for a pool in the Barony of Pollock in Renfrewshire, Scotland. In spite of diversification in occupations, mode of living, and dwelling all over the world, the spirit of clanship, pride in our traditions and culture have lived on.”



“The Pollock Tartan is very beautiful and quite colorful. The design is the Maxwell Tartan with the Green and Red colors reversed and a white stripe added. We will use the worsted material as it wears and holds its press much better. Being worsted it has a nice sheen. Our first order will be for the ancient colors because it is the most unusual and the most popular with those we contacted.”

Written by Clan Pollock’s first President, Rhys A. Pollok