



SSA Newsletter, Vol. 2, No 2.
October 2009
Dwyer Quentin Wedvick, Editor



1. Scotland (July 2009) MY PERSPECTIVE OF THE GATHERING 2009 – EDINBURGH, AND THE BORDER GATHERING – DUMFRIES

The organizers of the Gathering 2009 should be very proud of themselves for a job that was very well done. My wife Kathryn and I had a wonderful time while we were at the event and look forward to attending again. Our main focus was to attend the Stewart Society annual general meeting and President’s Reception and help at the Stewart Society tent in the clan tent area; I am a Commissioner for that society. And we wanted to attend the SSA annual general meeting and visit with as many of SSA friends as we could. Happily we were able to accomplish both and then some.

Our only problem was we ran out of time. We arrived in London on Tuesday 21 July and spent two wonderful days with armiger John Gaylor and his wife Ann at their home in England, then on to Lochmaben, Scotland, where we attended a reception in Dumfries. The Border Gathering has been organized by May and Charles for the last 12 years and this was to be their last year of superintending this event. Then we arrived in Edinburgh in time for me to dress and attend the Stewart Society’s Commissioner’s Meeting followed by the President’s reception. Saturday I was up bright and early to go to Holyrood Park to help put the finishing touches on the Stewart Society tent and I never slowed down, just like at an American Highland Game, when you have a tent you are busy!



John Gaylor & John Glynn of Glynstewart

I met Kathryn at the MacDonald Holyrood Hotel where we attended the SSA AGM and I was elected SSA Secretary, replacing Donald Draper Campbell. The meeting was followed by a wonderful lunch and then back to the field to work and prepare for the ‘Clan Parade’ up the Royal Mile. If there was any complaint it was this event. It just took a long time to get rolling however, despite thousands marching it was well organized, and just overwhelmed everyone. The parade went well and Kathryn and I attended the show at Edinburgh Castle, getting home a little after mid-night. Up the next morning to the field and more work in the Stewart tent and some visiting, then it was over.

We had a great time while we were at the Gathering, the crowd was well behaved and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves and other than a brief sprinkle Sunday morning the weather was great. I could have used another day at the Gathering as we saw only a small fraction of what there was to do and see. We knew friends were in attendance at the Gathering but only briefly saw them and I only had a brief moment at the joint HSS/SSA area Sunday afternoon before everything was wrapped-up for the day.

Bottom-line, it was a great event, enjoyed by everyone I talked to and I believe when it is held again there will be more participation, and if any future gathering is held by the same organizers, it will be a success.

After we left Edinburgh we toured the north spending time on a cousin's farm on Loch Earn; spent a few days in Falkland and had lunch with friends in St. Andrews at the RNC; worked our way up to Craigellachie (Spey River) and Inverness; then back to the Edinburgh area for a couple days where we had tea with SSA member Sir Andrew Bruce, KT, the Rt. Hon. The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, Chief of the Name of Bruce and his wife Victoria at their home, Broomhall, Dunfermline; and finally ending up in Lochmaban where we spent several days with the McKerrrells of Hillhouse and helped them with the 2009 Border Gathering in Dumfries. The event was Sunday, 9 August, and the Lord Lyon was the honoured guest. He opened the event and presented several trophies. He was the guest of honour at the Organizer's tent and we all enjoyed his and his wife's company during lunch and visiting with them during the day. I might note that he was wearing a SSA tie. The weather cooperated, and the crowd was large, this year the attendance exceeded expectations. We headed back to Edinburgh Monday 10 August and returned to Brentwood Tuesday having been gone three weeks.

All in all it was a great trip with many activities and things to do, but it is good to be home.

Contributor: John Glynn of Glynstewart

2. Scotland (July 2009) THE GATHERING 2009

It's fair to say that The Gathering in July in Edinburgh was a great success, as was our AGM, held at the same time. While there are larger Games throughout the year, each of them would be hard-pressed to come close, much less equal the sheer impact of Edinburgh as a backdrop to an event physically located in Holyrood Palace Park. It's also fair to say that no other Games in my experience have had so many things happening at so many places.



*Robt. & Suzanne Currie, Glen Cook of Kingierly & Wm. Boswell of Toberchurn
at the Currie Reception. Photo: Robert Currie*

On Thursday the 23rd there were not one but two receptions, the first for Clan Currie at the Royal Scots Club and the second for a number of local and visiting Scots Armigers at the Roxeburgh Hotel arranged by Mike Grewar. Glen Cook, Donald Campbell and I attended the first, and most of the visiting members were at the Roxeburgh. On Friday the Clan Convention was held all day at the Scottish Parliament. Several of us were able to attend and we were treated to the presence of most of the Chiefs, together with the Lord Lyon, and hosted by the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament. It was held in the Parliament Chamber and many of us sat at MSP desks. The only glitch was that, having been promised in the morning that there would be no fire alarm testing, there nevertheless was an alarm at about 2 in the afternoon and we evacuated the building just in time for a vigorous downpour. As the fire wardens insisted that we couldn't stand under the eaves of the building, we were obliged to cross the street and stand in the rain. Everyone politely complied with this instruction for about 30 seconds before decamping to a spot under the overhang of an adjacent building.



SSA AGM L to R: C. McKerrell of Hillhouse, D.D. Campbell, Wm. Boswell of Toberchurn, Jeff Johnstone, J. K. McAlpine & Glen Cook of Kingierly photo : JG of G

There were a variety of events Friday evening, many of them involving the Chiefs and HRH the Duke of Rothesay at Holyrood Palace. However, several of us ended up at the Clan Urquhart dinner at the SAS Radisson (lovely hotel by the way) by dint of being both kitted out in black tie and looking alternately lonely and underfed.

Saturday was without doubt one of the more spectacular displays of perfect weather most of us have ever experienced in Scotland and gave the lie to the notion that the expression "nice Scottish weather" is an oxymoron. Low 60s F. (17 C.), blue sky, puffy clouds, a light breeze – what a contrast to some of the Games we attend in the SE United States where it's sunny and 104 F. It made most of us happy to be wearing wool. TRH the Duke and Duchess of Rothesay did a walkabout and several of us had the privilege of being presented. In my case I was at the Scottish Regiments tent chatting with the Lord Provost of Edinburgh about the vast powers each of us has as a mayor (not) and he

enquired if I'd been presented to HRH. Me: "No." He: "Well, he's on his way in, stand here and I'll do it." (Pause) Me to HRH: "How do you do, Sir; right tent, wrong Service." HRH: "Whatever do you mean?" Me: "Well I'm a retired substantive colonel, but in the USAF." HRH: "Really; what did you do?" Me: "I was a judge advocate, a military lawyer; you use civilians for military law in the UK." HRH: "Yes, yes, I understand; Guantanamo Bay and that sort of thing." Me: "Uh, yes, Sir."

Later that morning we met for our AGM at the MacDonald Holyrood Hotel and the turnout was the best we've ever had at an AGM. We re-elected three existing directors, elected a new secretary, John Glynn of Glynstewart, and named Donald Draper Campbell as a Fellow, the SSA's highest honour and one we haven't given out in about four years save for Lord Lyon Sellar in 2008.

Donald also was elected to the Board of Governors and retains his position as our Sennachie. Following the AGM, Glen Cook, Hugh Montgomerie and I had the opportunity for a long discussion with the Earl of Eglinton regarding our proper interface with the Standing Council.

The field closed at 6 p.m. on Saturday and the Clans and Families formed up about 90 minutes later for the march up the Royal Mile to the Castle. Several of us decided to sample a wee dram to fortify ourselves, but as all the pubs were full we ended up at the bar at the SAS Radisson where they had to take us as we were guests. Donald and Beth Campbell joined us and suggested that we decamp to an Italian restaurant across the street for some non-liquid fortification (plus wine) and we remained there until after the parade began on the theory that it was anti-Scots to walk back down High Street only to walk up it again.

I jumped into the parade with Clan Montgomerie as they were passing the restaurant just as the bill was settled, which shows excellent planning skills when you think about it.



Donald Campbell & Wm. Boswell of Toberchurn, photo: JG of G

Sunday morning back to The Gathering, where Hugh Montgomerie, Charles and May McKerrell and I did some recruiting walkabouts and acquired several new Chiefs as members, along with their heirs. Other things were going on at the HSS/SSA tent on both days and we had a very good turnout. I left for Germany that afternoon and the States the next morning. The feedback I've received from everyone has been nothing short of excellent.

We will have a presence at the Stone Mountain Highland Games near Atlanta, Georgia in October. Next year's AGM will be held 10-12 September at the Ligonier Highland Games, Ligonier, Pennsylvania (about an hour east of Pittsburgh). Lord Lyon is the Honoured Guest of the Games and will attend the AGM as our President. He will be accompanied by his wife. Please mark the dates in your calendar. The Games plans to have a special black tie dinner for Lyon on the evening of the 10th.

Contributor: Bill Boswell of Toberchurn



L to R: Prof. James Floyd, HSS Editor, Lady Hillhouse, C. McKerrell of Hillhouse, J. Glynn of Glynstewart, Lady Glynstewart photo credit: JG of G

3. Scotland (July 2009) REGARDING THE GATHERING 2009

Whilst our family had already planned to attend the Gathering in Edinburgh last month, it was my great pleasure to also represent the Society, along with our Chairman, at the Clan Convention held at the Scottish Parliament in conjunction with the Gathering. I was impressed that the organizers provided gravitas to the proceedings with the chair being taken by the Presiding Officer of that Parliament. In substance, however, there was little to be gained by the attendees in the plenary session.

The injunctions regarding the duties of Chiefs (particularly those of McLaren which were quite pithy and enjoyable to listen to) were really, I should think, an example of preaching to the choir: those Clan Chiefs and heads of family present are already actively engaged with the clans and clan societies.

What may garner the attention of those in Scottish Government and the non-participating heads of families and clans were the tremendous numbers attending the extremely well organized Games/Gathering at Holyrood Park. This was one of the best such events I've attended in Scotland or the United States, with more than 20,000 reporting having attended, and a brilliant clan march in the evening up the Royal Mile. Bruce Standish of Australia (who managed to get a bit of sunburn in Scotland!) commented to me on the significance of that historic view as we climbed to the Castle.

It is, then, perhaps an opportune time for our Society to be ready with assistance to members of the Standing Council, many of whom have kindly accepted our invitation as Honourary Members.

We well recognize the claims made upon the time and resources of our Clan Chiefs and Heads of Family. This is compounded by the vast expanse over which clan members may be spread. With knowledgeable members of our Society available both through the internet and "on the ground" where clan

members participate in events, the Society offers itself as a resource to members of the Standing Council to respond to questions in appropriate areas of Scottish heraldry, history and tradition.

Contributor: Glen A. Cook of Kingierly.



*The parade from Holyrood to Edinburgh Castle Saturday Night
Photo Credit: Donald Draper Campbell*

4. Scotland (July 2009) THE GATHERING 2009

The Gathering 2009 was held on the grounds of Holyrood Park, Edinburgh, Scotland on 25-25 July 2009. The weekend's celebrations united more than 47,000 people from at least 40 countries around the world, with an additional 20,000 lining the Royal Mile to watch 8,000 people marching with their clan and the pipes and drums on Saturday evening.

About 125 clan societies participated in the event along with about 85 Clan Chiefs. Additionally, there was tent housing various Scottish organizations providing genealogical, heraldic and historical information along with a series of lecture. The Heraldry Society of Scotland and the Society of Scottish Armigers shared a booth and had several hundred visitors. There was a booth Family Tree DNA as well as historical records group (Lyon Court, et al) from the Scottish Government.

The Gathering was a great event.

Contributor: Donald Draper Campbell



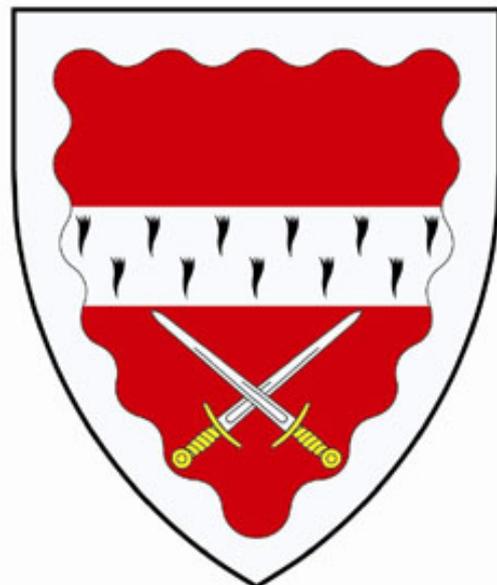
*The Pipe Bands playing at Edinburgh Castle
Photo Credit: Donald Draper Campbell*

5. Heraldry SCOTS AUTHOR GEORGE CRAUFURD

George Craufurd, 1684-1748, son of Thomas Craufurds of Cartsburn was the compiler/author of the first publication of "The Peerage of Scotland" in 1716. This was the first of four such publications published during the course of the next two centuries ending in the last edition of 1907-1914. A younger contemporary of Nisbet, he rated and got a solid mention in "A System of Heraldry" in 1722 on page 424 and his father's arms are displayed on plate 21 .

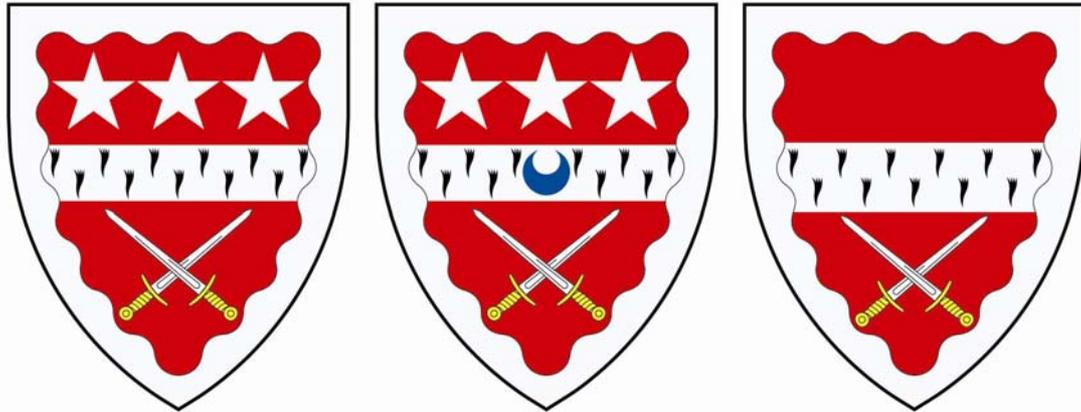
The arms George Craufurd used on his bookplate differ considerably from those matriculated by his father, Thomas, at Lyon Court. But since he actually used these arms in life, it was decided to use the bookplate arms.

Blazon: Gules a fess ermine with two swords saltireways in base proper, a bordure wavy argent.



In a effort to make this perspective interesting a triptych was executed by the

artist:



From left to right, the arms of Thomas Craufurd of Cartsburn, a guess of what George Craufurd's arms as a second son ought to have looked like, and the bookplate arms.

6. SUBMISSIONS: NEWS, ARTICLES & IMAGES

Please send articles in MS Word format as attachments to an email and pictures as jpeg images also as attachments to an email to the SSA Newsletter Editor, Dwyer Wedvick, at dqwedvick@sbcglobal.net or to Fatima@ageoffaith.org
Contributor: Dwyer Wedvick

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Finis !