

THE

BLUE LION



VOL. 27 ISSUE 2

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THE FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL, INC. USA.

May 2021

Clackmannan Tower

In the rolling hills of Clackmannanshire in the Forth Valley near the Forth River is a site called Kings Seat Hill. This is where David II, King of Scots, in 1359 granted the land to his kinsman, Robert Bruce, who became the first Baron of Clackmannan. All Bruces today are from the Scottish line that began with him. The earliest part of the tower may have been built around that time.

Family of Bruce International members who attended the festivities in Scotland in 2014 were treated to a private tour of the Tower by Historic Scotland.

Most tower houses were simple rectangular forms three stories high. In the 15th century a tall south wing was added to Clackmannan Tower and the height increased. In the late 16th century, a mansion was built on the west side of the tower. In the illustration on the left below shows the mansion in the back left, the south wing in the middle, and the original tower on the right.



Photo of an illustration of the tower and mansion in the early 1800s – (courtesy of Historic Scotland)



Front of Clackmannan Tower today

Tower Houses, also called Keeps, like Clackmannan, were common in the middle ages and were built by noblemen to provide protection, to command, and to defend the property with limited number of resources.

In the 18th century the Baron at the time, David Bruce, declared bankruptcy and sold the estate. His son, Henry, the last of the male line, and who also supported the Jacobites in the 1745 uprising, lived in the mansion. He died in 1772 and his widow, Lady Catherine Bruce, lived in the declining mansion until her death in 1791. In October 1787, Lady Catherine Bruce 'knighted' Robert Burns with the sword which belonged to Robert the Bruce and is now in the possession of Lord Elgin. After her death, the house and tower were abandoned and by 1841 the house was demolished.

See full article in the 2015 February Blue Lion in the Members Only section of www.familyofbruceinternational.org



DEAR FAMILY —

Since our last issue of the Blue Lion in February, our organizational family suffered a great loss. One of the founding fathers, and first president of one of our forerunner organizations, Bruce International, **Rex Bruce**, died on March 23 at the age of 92. He is also the father of Polly Bruce Tifford, our national secretary. There is more on Rex later in this issue.

I had the great fortune to meet Rex and his wife Norma in 2004 on my very first trip to attend the Stone Mountain Highland Games and the Bruce International annual general meeting. There was Rex, decked out in his kilt and Scottish regalia, greeting everyone who came by the tent. Rex was truly an extrovert, a character, and a charmer. He was an immediate inspiration to me, and a mentor. I saw him every year after that at Stone Mountain until he and Norma could no longer make the trip. I also had the pleasure of spending time with him in Scotland in 2006 for the 700th Anniversary celebration of the crowning of King Robert I. What a great time we had!

The last time I saw him was in September 2018 when William and Phyllis, and Kathy and I travelled to Bloomington Indiana to visit Rex and Norma. They were so happy to see us! The picture you see here, of myself, Rex, and William, is one I really cherish. Little did we know that Norma would pass on about 6 weeks later, so our trip was exceptionally timely.



Me, Rex, and William September 7, 2018

Rest in peace my friend. You will be sorely missed by me as well as this organization.

On a more pleasant note, I am pleased to expand on a message from the last Lion, concerning a new membership perk that we have established for our members. Family of Bruce International has become a Clan partner (or, as we prefer, Family partner) with the National Trust for Scotland USA. Benefits to all members are that FOBI will be recognized and advertised as a Clan partner, giving us greater outreach to new prospective members; FOBI will receive an electronic copy of the NTS magazine, Scotland in Trust, that will be distributed to all members. Individual members who join NTS USA will receive a 15% discount on membership fees. (Use the code BRUCE2021 at their website, ntsusa.org, to get the discounted fee.) A membership in NTS USA provides you with free access and parking to 90+ NTS sites, reciprocal membership benefits to other heritage organizations, such as National Trust for England, for Wales, and for Northern Ireland and others, and invitations to special events in the US. I recently joined and am enjoying my membership, but I am really looking forward to using my membership when I visit Scotland again.

Finally, in this issue you will see the latest iteration of the Q and A information sheet originally prepared by William Bruce, our past president, in 2008. It has been updated again and has now been reorganized, a very informative document. It was originally prepared as a guide for games hosts who get many questions from prospective members and the general public at games. Hence the Q and A format. But because it has so much useful information, we are sharing the most recent version with everyone. It is also on our website.

Speaking of games, we are starting to see some return to actual in-person games and we will try to keep you updated on the website calendar with the most recent information we have on which games will actually happen again. Unfortunately, our Minnesota games have already been cancelled and we have to wait for 2022. Until next time!

**YOURS AYE,
DON BRUCE, FSA SCOT
FOBI PRESIDENT**



Needless to say, due to the Covid Pandemic, we still do not know at this time all of the games that will have a Bruce tent in 2021! There are a number of games/festivals that are in the planning stage, and there will be an update in the future.

What we do know....

The Costa Mesa Scottish Fest

Will be virtual and **Julie Goldsworth, S. California Commissioner**, has been working on a Bruce link to this event <https://www.scottishfest.com/> - May 29 and sign up on the above web link for access to the event.

Cheyenne Celtic Festival Wyoming

Bob Bruce, Colorado Commissioner, and Rachel will be hosting a Bruce tent on June 12-14th
<https://www.everfest.com/e/cheyenne-celtic-festival-cheyenne-wy>

Celtic Fling

Renaissance Fair Grounds, Manheim, PA -- June 26 & 27 – hosted by **Steve Cobaugh, Pennsylvania FOBI Commissioner**
<http://www.parenfaire.com/celtic.html>

Stone Mountain Highland Games

Stone Mountain, Georgia – October 15 – 17th.
– Hosted by Marty Bruce and his family and **Deb Bruce Gottlieb, SE FOBI Commissioner**, <http://www.smhg.org/> AGM on October 16 at 1pm! Bruce Family dinner at 6pm.

Any Commissioner, Games Host, or other members who are interested in hosting a Bruce tent, please contact:

Rodney Bruce
500 Tussey Fork Rd.
Greenup, KY 41144
gkints@juno.com

In the meantime, the FOBI Board is planning on some virtual Zoom meetings for Games Hosts/Commissioners to collaborate on regional/local events and some future Zoom meetings which will include members.

On **Saturday, July 24, 2021 at 2pm EDT** there will be a virtual zoom meeting to review the Q&A (attached with this Blue Lion issue) with the Commissioners and Games Hosts to ensure all are onboard with the same FOBI messaging. This Zoom call will also be open for all members.

Send your ideas for discussion topics to familyofbruceinternational@gmail.com.

Topic: FOBI Games Hosts and Commissioners
Time: Jul 24, 2021 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81660958794?pwd=Sk1zaGo2VTVrZ3cxNmJleVJmck9zQT09>

Meeting ID: **816 6095 8794**
Passcode: **389650**

Other detail if you cannot access the Zoom meeting via the link above.

One tap mobile
+13017158592,,81660958794# US (Washington DC)
+13126266799,,81660958794# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 816 6095 8794
Find your local number:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kuuzaPwZJ>



LEGACY of Rex Bruce



Rex Albert Bruce was born 9 July 1928 to Ben Bruce, Sr. and Arie Nilson Bruce and passed away 23 March 2021. He was one of twelve children. Rex wrestled and played football at Bloomington High School, starting every football game his senior year. He married Norma Dyer upon his graduation in 1946. They were both seventeen. Their seventy-second anniversary preceded Norma's passing. Two girls were born to that union, Polly and Pamela.

Rex had a strong desire to trace his Scottish genealogy. In that pre-internet time he compiled data from many grave yards and history museums. Rex and four other Bruce men founded Bruce International in 1984 at Grandfather Mountain, North Carolina in the presence and with the approval of Andrew Bruce, the 11th Earl of Elgin and Chief of the Family Bruce. The organization, now named Family of Bruce International, remains active today with members in the United States, Canada, and Australia.

At the time of his passing, Rex was a member and former Elder of Sherwood Oaks Christian Church, honorary member of the Van Buren Fire Department having served on the Van Buren Township board for eight years, member of the Scottish Society of Greater Bloomington, and member of the Family of Bruce International.

The family requests memorial donations be made in the name of Rex Bruce to WildCare, Inc., 198 N. Hartstrait Rd. Bloomington, IN 47404;

Sherwood Oaks Christian Church, 2700 E. Rogers Rd., Bloomington, IN 47401; Family of Bruce International, 1495 Jones Rd., Roswell, GA 30075 in lieu of flowers.

Below are some special tributes to Rex:

Charles, Lord Bruce –

"Rex Bruce was a stalwart of the Bruce family in the United States and an indefatigable pioneer who established an association to serve the family's interests as a fully fledged membership organisation across North America, with my father's blessing.

"My family is deeply indebted to the time and effort that Rex and his family put into the formation of the Family of Bruce International, in its early days. It is no coincidence that the Board continues to reap the vision for a viable family association, embodying the spirit of our great Scottish heritage, which Rex so freely sowed in those early years.

"I am sure we will all benefit from Rex's involvement with FOBI for many years to come, and we will share his vision in order to encourage our children to become involved, just as he intended; and when it becomes possible to travel again, I hope very much to be able to join you in support of the activities you undertake as a board throughout the year, at various gatherings and festivals across the United States and Canada, and as a lasting reminder of the legacy of Rex Bruce."

William P. Bruce –

"Had it not been for Rex and the beautiful way in which he accepted me into Bruce International all those years ago, I may not have had the incentive to become involved and move on to a leadership position". Phyllis' memory is "we were walking toward the Bruce tent at Stone Mountain, and Rex saw us coming and came toward us, thoroughly welcoming us with such warmth that I also felt accepted as part of the family. His smile and love for others were part of that winning personality he shared with all".



Deb Bruce Gottlieb –

“1981, my parents and I were at the Stone Mountain Highland Games and visited the Bruce Tent. Rex’s enthusiasm for Bruces and all things Scottish was so infectious and exciting that this new friendship grew into the Family we are now” ... the rest is history! Rex your memory is a blessing.

Thomas Allen Bruce –

I met Rex the first time he came to Stone Mountain when he called out “is that a Bruce kilt?” as I walked by, and he and I were good friends from then on.

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

Richard Randolph III of Alabama – June 2020
Albert Metts of Texas – February 2021
Rex Bruce of Indiana – March 2021

CHARITABLE OPERATIONS

2021 Family of Bruce International Scholarship - Application Due date is November 30, 2021

In May 2017, FOBI was proud to announce to the membership of Family of Bruce International, Inc, the establishment of a scholarship as part of the charitable operations of our organization. For quite some time, our Board has been in discussion concerning the wider dissemination of the funds we have at hand which are designated for charitable work. This is, of course, in line with our IRS identification as a 501c3 not for profit charitable organization. The 1st scholarship was awarded in 2017 to Mackenzie Bruce who is a graduate student in architecture at the University of Michigan. In 2018, two scholarships were awarded, one to MacKenzie Hafer who is an Anthropology student at the University of West Georgia, and another to Kyle Bruce Crow who is studying Veterinarian Medicine and Surgery at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, and in 2019 to Heather Bruce who is studying Art at the University

of San Francisco. Here is what you all should know about this scholarship.

One scholarship will be granted not more than once in a calendar year, and for the fifth year (2021) will be in the amount of \$1,000. The scholarship will be open only to members of Family of Bruce International, which, because all of our memberships are family memberships, include both the primary member, spouse, and all children under the age of 18. Former family members now 18 years of age and older must have their own membership in order to make application.

Applicants are required to submit a proposal for use of the funds in writing (not in an email), and with all significant details, to the FOBI Board, who, acting as a committee of the whole, will make the final decision as to who the successful applicant will be. Application in writing must be made by November 30, 2021. Scholarship funds may be used only for tuition and other institutional fees of an accredited college, university, or other established and trusted academic/cultural organization of high standing. Priority will be given to that applicant whose study is focused on, or is clearly linked with, Scottish history and culture, and particularly with the history and culture of the Family of Bruce. Other academic ventures may also be considered.

Regular reports to the FOBI Board, on the progress of their study will be required of successful applicants.

Requirements Summary:

- Former family members, now 18 years of age and older, must have their own membership in order to make application.
- Application/proposal must be made in **writing (no email) and received no later than November 30, 2021**. Any application received after November 30 will not be considered.
- Funds will be used only for tuition and other institutional fees of an accredited college, university, or other established and trusted academic/cultural organization of high standing and will be credited directly to that student’s account at that institution.

Please mail your written proposal to:

**Polly Bruce Tilford
FOBI National Secretary
5561 Earl Young Rd.,
Bloomington, IN 47408**



Membership Committee Polly Bruce Tilford

The Family of Bruce International warmly welcomes new members who have recently joined!!!

“CEUD MILE FAILTE”

(ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND WELCOMES IN SCOTS GAELIC)

New Members:

Arizona – Jeffrey Wallace Bruce

Florida – Alastair Bruce Johnston & Dr. J. Anne Hamner

Georgia – Jenness Drake

Indiana – Nicholas Fullmer & Sharon Bruce Settles

New York – Robert Beard

Oregon – Andrew Blacker

Tennessee – Judith McGhee

Texas – William Troy Alsobrook

Wisconsin – Gabrielle Colby

2021 Annual Members

Dues Reminder

Thank you to all who have sent in their 2021 Annual dues!!!

Request for Nominations for Officer Election at 2021 AGM!!

The election for the Secretary, Treasurer, Operations Officer, and the At Large member of the Board of Directors of the Family of Bruce International will be held on Saturday, October 16, at the Annual General Meeting to be held at Stone Mountain Highland Games at 1pm.

Per the FOBI By-laws the Officer elections for the Secretary, Treasurer, and Operations Officer are held every two years on odd numbered calendar year. These officers shall be any Regular or Associate Member, male or female.

The by-laws define that all nominations are to be submitted to the Secretary by August 15. The Board of Directors will most likely make some nominations, however, **all** members are encouraged to participate in this process.

Secretary. The Secretary shall be a member, either Regular or Associate, male or female, in good standing. The Secretary shall keep and maintain the minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors and general meetings. The Secretary shall maintain all records of the corporation including the bylaws of the corporation, membership rolls, attendance at the annual meeting and other functions as deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors, in the form and manner prescribed by the Board of Directors and shall conduct such other correspondence as may be required by the President and Board of Directors. The Secretary shall perform such duties as are ordinarily incumbent upon a Secretary.

Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be a member, either Regular or Associate, male or female, in good standing. The Treasurer shall keep records of all fees, dues and monies collected, invested and disbursed, of the corporation. The Treasurer shall prepare an annual financial statement for presentation at the annual meeting of the organization and generally perform such duties as are ordinarily incumbent upon a Treasurer.

Operations Officer. The Operations Officer shall be a member, either Regular or Associate, male or female, in good standing. The Operations Officer shall oversee the attendance of the Family of Bruce International at Scottish games and other such functions and shall serve as a liaison between the corporation and Commissioners of the Family of Bruce.

At-Large member election of the At-Large Member of the Board of Directors shall be conducted annually.

IMPORTANT

Please submit nominations for the Secretary, Treasurer, Operations Officer, and At Large Board member in writing to the Secretary no later than August 15, 2021.

Polly Bruce Tilford – Secretary
5561 Earl Young Rd., Bloomington, IN 47408
or pollytilford@comcast.net



CHIEF

The Right Honorable the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, KT, LLD, DLitt, DL, JP
Broomhall, Dunfermline, Scotland

FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<p><u>President</u> Donald E. Bruce, FSA Scot 1051 Eagle Ridge Trail Stillwater, MN 55082 bruce1051@comcast.net</p>	<p><u>Vice President</u> Robert James Bruce, FSA Scot 504 Sudbury Rd. Linthicum, MD 21090 robertjamesbruce78@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>Secretary</u> Polly Bruce Tilford 5561 Earl Young Rd., Bloomington, IN 47408 pollytilford@comcast.net</p>	<p><u>Treasurer</u> Deborah Bruce Gottlieb, FSA Scot 1495 Jones Road Roswell, GA 30075 debgottlieb@bellsouth.net</p>	<p><u>Operations Officer</u> Rodney Bruce 500 Tussey Fork Rd. Greenup, KY 41144 gkints@juno.com</p>
<p><u>Immediate Past President</u> William P. Bruce, FSA Scot 5556 27th Ave., So. Minneapolis, MN 55417-1934 wbruceesq41@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>At-Large Board Member</u> Robert J. Bruce 1652 Glencoe Denver, CO 80220 bobbruce@RJBLAWYERLLC.COM</p>	<p><u>Lieutenant to the Chief</u> Thomas Allen Bruce, FSA Scot PO Box 924 Holly Springs, GA 30142 tabruce@windstream.net</p>	<p><u>High Commissioner</u> Richard Bruce, FSA Scot 83 Maxwehnt Rd Dahlonega, GA 30533 brucefsascot@yahoo.com</p>	

FAMILY OF BRUCE COMMISSIONERS

<p>High Commissioner Richard Bruce, FSA Scot Dahlonega, GA</p>	<p>Colorado Robert J. Bruce 1652 Glencoe Denver, CO 80220 92900hab@comcast.net</p>	<p>Oklahoma MarLo Alexander 113 N. W. Ramblewood Rd. Bartlesville, OK 74003 mcua1971@gmail.com</p>	<p>Texas Vizi Bruce Lange-Caldwell 1656 Hamblen Rd. Kingwood, TX 77339-4023 vizilange@gmail.com</p>
<p>Northern California Joel C. Bruce 70 Summit Rd. Watsonville, CA 95076 joel102506@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Upper Mid-West William P. Bruce, FSA Scot Minneapolis, MN Deputy Commissioner Don Bruce, FSA Scot Stillwater, MN 55082</p>	<p>Pennsylvania Steven Cobaugh 231 School Lane Elizabethtown, PA 17022 smcobaugh@comcast.net</p>	<p>Virginia Gerald Cousins, Sr. 7329 Sedgemoor Circle Mechanicsville, VA 23116 4uskins57@gmail.com</p>
<p>Southern California Julie Goldsworth, FSA Scot 14791 Athel Ave Irvine, CA 92606 goldjulie@aol.com</p>	<p>New York Chip Compton 2323 Tully Farms Rd. LaFayette, NY 13084 bruceofcny@gmail.com</p>	<p>Northeast Vacant</p>	<p>Southeast Deborah Bruce Gottlieb, FSA Scot Roswell, GA</p>

Editor **THE BLUE LION** – Deborah Bruce Gottlieb, FSA Scot
Webmaster for familyofbruceinternational.org – Robert James Bruce, FSA Scot

Family of Bruce International is a non-profit organization established to create and promote kinship amongst its family members and to encourage interest in the Family of Bruce and its history. Membership is open to persons interested in their Scottish heritage and especially those who qualify by surname, by descent, or by recognized septs: Carlisle, Carruthers, Crosby, Randolph, and Stenhouse. It is the only such organization recognized by the hereditary chief of the Name of Bruce, The Right Honorable the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine.

Mission Statement: *To promote, honor, and preserve our Scottish and Bruce heritage by sponsoring activities, events, scholarships, and continual communication through the E-Magazine and website. We will therefore, provide educational information, tributes to our history and ancestors, and thereby attract Bruces and Septs into the enjoyment and celebration of our familial relationships.*

CREST*: A lion statant with tail extended Azure, armed and langued Gules.

ARMS*: Or, a saltire and chief Gules, on a canton Argent a lion rampant Azure.

MOTTO: *FUIMUS* – We have been.

* The Crest and Arms belong to the Chief and can only be used by him. Use of the Crest surrounded by a buckled belt is acceptable.

FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL, INC. – MAY 2021



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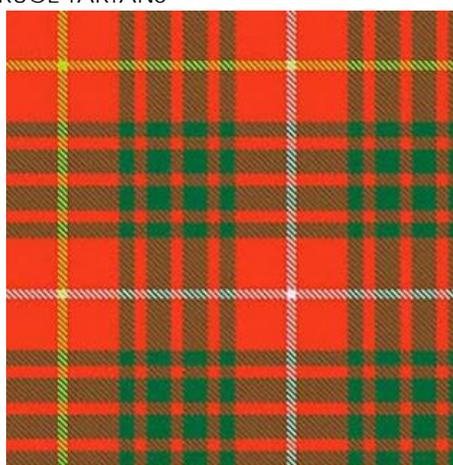
NOTE: Family of Bruce International – Questions & Answers – Insert – 8 pages

According to the Scottish Tartans Authority, there are over 5,000 registered tartans. The most common of the Bruce tartan is the Modern and the Ancient. The design is the same but the "Modern" is brighter due to modern dyes and the "Ancient" more muted. There is also a Bruce Tartan named for James Bruce of Kinnaird who explored parts of Africa and the Mediterranean in the 18th Century.

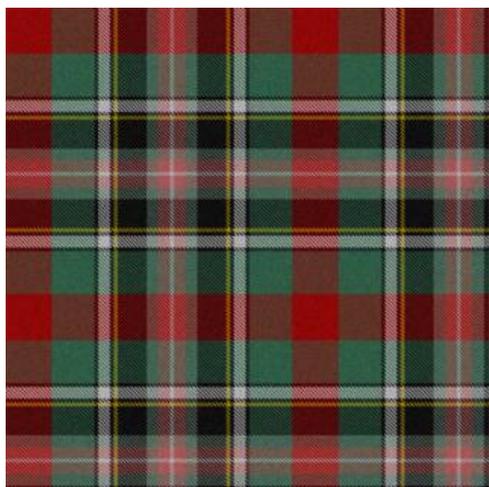
EXAMPLES OF BRUCE TARTANS



BRUCE MODERN



BRUCE ANCIENT



BRUCE OF KINNAIRD MODERN



BRUCE OF KINNAIRD ANCIENT