

CLAN PITCAIRN

Chief James Pitcairn

October 2008

The Newsletter of the Pitcairn Heritage Society
Founded in 1990 by Ian Pitcairn & Deana Pitcairn Duncan

No 20

PITCAIRN 2009 GATHERING

WEDNESDAY 22nd JULY – SUNDAY 26th JULY 2009

Question: Why is it planned that THE PITCAIRN 2009 GATHERING should be based in the Westerwood Hotel Resort in Central Scotland?

Answer: PITCAIRN FAMILY ROOTS ARE HERE

Mae Pitcairn Writes:

The Westerwood Hotel is one of Scotland's premier conference centres and hotel resorts located on the M8 with easy access to Glasgow, Stirling, Perth, Edinburgh and Ayr. There is extensive parkland, an 18-hole golf course, leisure facilities, dining options, landscaped gardens and comfortable bedrooms. The hotel is the perfect launch pad for all we mean to do.

Being three miles from Kirkintilloch, the hotel sits on the fringe of an area historically and currently associated with the Pitcairn family. In the 16th Century, David Pitcairn (or possibly his son John b. 1573) a title-less youngest son, left the affluence of the Pitcairn base in Dunfermline, Forthar, Fife where the family was involved with the wildly fluctuating favours of the Court during the minority of King James VI, for the relatively intrigue-free, but much less productive family owned lands of North Lanarkshire, specifically an extensive area around what is today Easterhouse, including three small lochs. It was hunting, shooting and fishing territory.

Thus began Family Branch 4, the West of Scotland Pitcairns, thrown back on their own resources with virtually no access to inherited wealth.

In 1796 John Pitcairn, son of John Pitcairn and Mary Kirkland and a direct descendant of the John mentioned above (b 1573), married Mary Gray of Bedcow Farm near Kirkintilloch thus beginning Family Branch 4A – the Kirkintilloch Branch.

Come with us on Thursday 23rd July 2009, when we travel across North Lanarkshire into Ayrshire to Alloway and the thatched cottage where Robert Burns was born in 1759. Share the laser-disc technology and theatrical effects in The Tam O'Shanter Experience that brings Burns' best loved tale to life in a special Audio-Visual presentation and see where his mare Meg lost her tail. Let us admire the stunning beauty of Culzean Castle on its clifftop location and another Pitcairn connection – its Eisenhower flat!

On Friday morning the golf course is booked for the Pitcairn 2009 Championship. Non-golfers will have their own activities but keep the afternoon free for the short trip to The Falkirk Wheel, the world's first and only rotating boat lift bringing life back to the world's first coast-to-coast ship canal. A modern civil engineering wonder! Friday evening sees us attend, in full highland dress, a Reception and Special Burns' Supper with piper, haggis, songs, recitations, toasts, violin recital and community singing to mark the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns. You might be on the programme!!

On Saturday 25th, we travel to Edinburgh for the World Heavyweight Championship Highland Games, the evening Clan Parade up the Royal Mile and the Highlight – the **Historical Homecoming Pageant enacted on the Castle Esplanade** for which those with passports have seats. Coach leaves Edinburgh for Westerwood Hotel at midnight.

Sunday breakfast brings Pitcairn 2009 to an end with sad farewells and promises to meet again "for the sake of auld lang syne".

FINANCIAL INFORMATION ABOUT PITCAIRN 2009

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU SEND YOUR DEPOSITS
BY THE DATES BELOW TO
CLARK PITCAIRN IN THE US & JOHN PITCAIRN IN THE UK

Cost Estimates

A. ACCOMMODATION AT WESTERWOOD HOTEL - 4 NIGHTS BED/BREAKFAST

| | <u>Standard</u> | <u>DeLuxe</u> |
|---|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Single room rate | PPPN £75.00 | £85.00 |
| 2. Double room rate | PPPN £42.50 | £52.50 |
| 3. Child under 5 years sharing with 2 adults | | Free of charge |
| 4. Child under 12 years sharing with 2 adults | | Pays for meals only |

B. OTHER COSTS

| | | |
|----------|--|--------|
| Thursday | Coach Trip, Burns Cottage and Culzean Castle | £25.00 |
| Friday | Golf | £20.00 |
| | Falkirk Wheel | £15.00 |
| | Burns Supper | £50.00 |
| Saturday | Return Coach to Edinburgh | £10.00 |

Payment Requirements – Deposits Due By Dates Shown Below

A. ACCOMMODATION

1. **Room deposits** of £20/\$40 per adult and £10/\$20 per child are required **by 15th October 2008** and are not refundable.
2. **The Room balance** **must be paid by 15th May 2009**

B. OTHER COSTS

1. A first instalment of \$100 each from US visitors **to be paid by 15th January 2009**
2. A final instalment of \$100 each from US visitors **to be paid by 15th March 2009**
3. A first & final instalment of £50+ from UK visitors **to be paid by 15th March 2009**

Who to Pay

1. IN US: All payments should be made to Clark Pitcairn who has taken over from Colin Pitcairn who is now working in Saudi Arabia. Contact Clark by e-mail: c.pitcairn@pitcairn.com
2. IN UK: All cheques to be made out to 'Pitcairn Heritage Society' and sent to John M.S. Pitcairn Fair Winds, Burnbrae Road, Kirkitilloch, Glasgow G66 5LH email j.mspitcairn@btinternet.com

ROBERT BURNS

BORN ALLOWAY 25th JANUARY 1759 - DIED DUMFRIES 21 JULY 1796

Robert Burns was the son of William Burnes who, for his marriage to Agnes Brown in 1757, built with his own hands a long, single storey cottage and byre. The 'auld cley biggin' known as Burns' Cottage, with its whitewashed walls and thatched roof, survives to this day and is located at Alloway, originally a small village on the banks of the River Doon, two miles south of Ayr.

When William Burnes decided to lease a farm, the cottage was leased out to a series of tenants and after fifteen years eventually sold to the Incorporation of Shoemakers in Ayr who in turn let it out as an ale house. In this role it continued for one hundred years till 1881 when it was purchased for £4,000 by the Trustees of the Burns' Monument and eventually restored. The restoration took twenty years. It was inaugurated in 1901 and is now open daily from 9am till 7pm. It is interesting to note that, five years after the poet's death, nine of his friends gathered at the cottage to hold a commemorative dinner in July 1801, and repeated the custom thereafter each January on his birthday, thus establishing the practice of Burns' Suppers.

Alan Bold, a well known poet, critic, biographer, anthologist and Scottish Writer of the Year in 1989, writes: "Robert Burns, Scotland's National Bard, is probably the

most popular poet in the world – American Presidents sing 'Auld Lang Syne', Russian schoolchildren chant 'A Man's A Man For A' That', and statues of Burns stand as far apart as Canada and Australia. Largely by his own efforts, he made himself one of the most educated individuals of his time. Carlyle called him 'The most gifted British soul we had in all that century of his.'"

One of the finest collections of Burns' manuscripts now extant has been assembled over the years and is now housed in the adjoining Birthplace Museum.

Some 300 metres south of Burns' Cottage lies the ruined Kirk Alloway, erected about 1516 but disused by 1691, briefly restored in 1740-52, but falling into ruin by the 1760s. It would provide the scene for the witches' dance in Burns' mock epic, 'Tam O' Shanter.'

Across the road stands the Tam O'Shanter Experience visitor centre, formerly the Land of Burns Centre which opened in June 1977, but which was recently enlarged and refurbished. It boasts an excellent souvenir shop, audio-visual centre, static displays of farming implements, a cafeteria and paved car and coach park.

See you there on 23rd July 2009
Don't miss it!

John Pitcairn Kirkintilloch

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We have a small tent reserved at the Highland Games for Clan Pitcairn and really need volunteers for Saturday and Sunday - please offer your services to man the tent as host(ess)/barman/security guard/friend?

The Antonine Wall.....

From John Pitcairn

In July 2008 the World Heritage Committee approved the Antonine Wall, built about 140 AD, as a World Heritage Site which became part of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site – all this to great rejoicing among Scottish historians.

The wall ran across the “waist” of Scotland from the Firth of Forth in the east to the Firth of Clyde in the west, and consisted of a turf wall on a fourteen foot stone base fronted by a wider deep ditch. Kirkintilloch (or Caerpentulach as it was then known and which means the fort at the end of the ridge of hills), Westerwood and Falkirk were forts on the wall which provided accommodation for troops based there.

It may well be possible to arrange a talk for Thursday evening about the wall and, if people are interested, a visit to the excavated fort at Barrhill or other sites – bearing in mind that not a great deal remains.

Best wishes and good luck to Colin Pitcairn who has done so much work for the Pitcairn Society and organises the website, and who is now working in Human Resources in Saudi Arabia. We hope he will be able to be with us in Scotland again in 2009.

Sadly we have recently been told of the sudden death of Kathy Pitcairn, wife of Julian the heir to the Chief, a few weeks ago after a difficult illness for the last year. I am sure that all Pitcairns join in sending heartfelt condolences to Julian.

**THOSE WHO WEAR THE TARTAN LOOK VERY GRAND AND OTHERS WHO
WOULD ALSO LIKE TO LOOK GRAND CAN ORDER
TIES-BOW TIES-SASHES-SCARVES
SHAWLS-CUMERBUNDS-KILTS**

in wool or silk, ancient, modern or hunting Pitcairn tartans supplied by:

D.C Dalgliesh Ltd.,

Dunsdale Mill

Selkirk

Scotland. TD7 5EB

01750-20781

THE PITCAIRN HERITAGE SOCIETY - CONTACTS

Founders

Ian Pitcairn in Suffolk

Deana Pitcairn in the USA

Chairman-Treasurer UK

John Pitcairn CA

Fair Winds, Burnbrae Road,
Kirkintilloch, Glasgow, UK. G66 5LH
0141.776.3140

j.mspitcairn@btinternet.com

Organiser in USA for Pitcairn 2009

Clark Pitcairn

c.pitcairn@pitcairn.com

Chairman NZ

Robert Pitcairn

imsquire@hotmail.com

Secretary USA

Alan Pitcairn

5744 La Jolla Corona Drive, La Jolla, California 92037-
7442 USA apitcairn@ets.com

Treasurer, Membership Secretary USA

Justin S. Pitcairn

10662 East Rosemary Lane,
Scottsdale, Arizona 85259 USA
ckayak@earthlink.net

Chairman USA & Website

Colin Pitcairn

Newsletter

Richard Pitcairn-Knowles
46 Greenhill Road Otford
Sevenoaks Kent TN14 5RS
rppk@btinternet.com

Membership of The Pitcairn Heritage Society is open to anyone world wide who has an interest in the Pitcairn Family. The aims of The Pitcairn Heritage Society are:

1. To extend the knowledge of our family history and make it available to members.
2. To promote the conservation of documents, monuments and other material of special significance to the Pitcairn family
3. To help members find their genealogical links between Pitcairns world-wide, and aid them in updating their family trees.
4. To publish a Newsletter twice a year, in which members will be able to exchange ideas and information.
5. To put members in touch with one another.
6. To act as a focal point for communication between members about:-
 - Common ancestry and family history.
 - Possible business relationships.
 - Common professional interests.
 - Hobbies or other activities.
 - Social relationships.