



OUR AIMS 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.*

Membership is open to anyone world-wide who has an interest in the Pitcairn Family.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION \$35/£23

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Pitcairn2000

Many Pitcairns left Scotland after the 1745 Rebellion, to spread themselves all over the globe. This summer, July 13th-15th, we reversed the trend in great style.

Our gathering commenced on Thursday 13th July with a 3-coach tour around the Pitcairn sites of Fife, as well as a visit to Abbott House in Dunfermline, where Lord Robert Pitcairn had lived in the 16th Century; and to the Exhibition in Dysart devoted to Major John Pitcairn who commanded the Royal Marines at the first engagement of the American War of Independence.

On Friday, a party of twenty-one had a Golf Tournament at the prestigious Gleneagles Golf Club. They joined the rest of us in the evening for a three-course buffet supper followed by a Ceilidh. This last was amazingly successful,

everyone 'having a go' at the Scottish dancing, and several American 'barn dancers' finding themselves very much at home with it.

166 of us sat down to the Banquet on Saturday 15th July and it was clear that all enjoyed every minute of the three hours it filled. The first event of the evening, to which we were all looking forward to, was the 'Addressing of the Haggis'; and we were not to be disappointed. John Pitcairn, a retired Accountant of Kirkintilloch, did for us what can only be described as a theatrical performance of the first order. Jaws dropped at his sheer exuberance and expertise. One of us, who was brought up in Scotland, said he had never seen better. So, for us who were new to it, it was a real treat.

The Selkirk Grace was said by 12 y.o. Allison Herring from Maryland USA. The Vote of Thanks done by Robert Pitcairn of New Zealand and the evening was carefully and confidently led from one part to another by John Wallace. Deana Pitcairn Duncan, who designed our tartan, recalled its story and the beginnings of our society. The Pitcairns of Philadelphia sang their family song for us, led by Lachlan Pitcairn, with professionalism and great gusto. Then, Dirk Jungé brought an amusing conclusion to the evening with a fund-raising auction of a family portrait which caused much merriment.

All in all it was a rare event with guests from babes-in-arms to octogenarians from the UK, USA and New Zealand. There was a disco to follow and the bar open to the "wee sma' oors".

The aim of filling the bedrooms of the Barony Castle was an ambitious one, and we nearly managed it. 120 of us stayed there for the two nights of July 14th & 15th, and on the Sunday it really felt as if many would have gladly stayed a few days more. Having so many of us (most of us total strangers) under one roof was a very special experience and we are already looking forward to our next gathering in 2004.

We can honestly say that the Pitcairn2000 family gathering was a 'rip-roaring success', and the Barony Castle rose to the challenge magnificently.

Pitcairn2000 Group Photos

If you didn't yet order your group photographs taken just before the Banquet at the Barony Castle in July then you can still do so. *They are very good indeed.*

Get in touch with Mr.Swanston of Photo Express, 7 Melville Terrace, Edinburgh, Scotland. E:H9 IND. Tel/Fax 0131 667 2164 or e-mail - photoexpress@madasafish.com

The 'Way Forward' Meeting

We had a productive 'business meeting' in which a number of issues were discussed and decisions made:

1. In view of the fact that the Pitcairn2000 event had been a success to be repeated in 2004; and bearing in mind the need for a fund to be built up for that purpose, it was proposed, and eventually agreed, that *the Annual Subscription should be increased to \$35 or £23.*

Concern however, was expressed, that this was going to be too much for some people and that (although the increase was necessary) some provision should be made so that Pitcairns were not excluded for financial reasons. One suggestion was that a two-tier membership be introduced whereby the \$35/£23 members would have access to the website with all its family trees etc. and a smaller subscription paid just for receiving the Newsletters.

2. **Historical Research.** One reason for the increase was that it was accepted that there might possibly be need for the committee to employ professional researchers for certain purposes.
3. **Reunion Fund.** Another reason for the increase was to make sure that the committee organising the next reunion had a fund with which to work. Thus the financial involvement of the committee members could be avoided as well as the need to collect funds *at the event*. It could be put in a high interest account of some kind.
4. **Merchandise.** Yet another reason was to create a 'buffer' so that the committee could buy small stocks of merchandise.
5. The possible advantages of **charitable status** for the Society were discussed and Andrew Pitcairn (UK) and John E.Pitcairn (USA) agreed to look into this in their respective patches.
6. The idea was floated of having a **President** who would co-ordinate the decisions of the two present Chairmen (Ian Pitcairn in the UK and Colin Pitcairn in the USA). In which case the two Chairmen would become Vice-Presidents. There was a good deal of support for the idea though no candidate has yet been found.

Please could as many as possible of you let me or Colin know what you think about this and propose candidates for this post.

8. **Website/Newsletter** - As so many members are now on the Internet and to save the labour of posting etc., it was agreed that all those on the Internet would receive their Newsletter through the Website (or e-mail) and all others would continue to get it through the post. It was felt that there should still be a strong historical content but also articles from members about their own family's stories and their own personal activities.

In other words to reflect more strongly the 'Aims of the PHS' (which are on the front of this Newsletter).

9. One addition to the stated Aims of the PHS was "To act as a focal point for communication between members for social relationships"

10. It was thought that we should be working towards creating a **Memorandum of Association**.

11. **Website**. The Website was seen as the way forward for communications both between the PHS and Members as well as between members, and might supplant the

12. **Unity**. There was strong agreement that the Society must remain as a single world-wide body rather than break into two.

13. **The Next Reunion**. It was widely thought that this could be in 2004, probably again in Scotland, though there was talk of having it in the USA or NZ, and that at some time during the next 3 years we should elect a '**Reunion Convenor**'.

14. **Reunion Committee**. Subsequent to the meeting, Kate & Bert Arnott very kindly re-volunteered their services for 2004. Presumably, the Committee for 2004 will consist of all the Officers above, together with the President (if we have one) and the Reunion Convenor yet to be elected.

15. **The Head of the Family**. The idea was raised that it might be possible to *elect* a chief instead of going through the expensive and time-consuming process of matriculating the Coat of Arms of the supposed Head of the Family. I think there was also a feeling that that way we would get a more active person in that role. The matter has been explored with the Lord Lyon King of Arms and it is not legally possible to have an elected Head of Family.

16. Perhaps the new post of 'President' might fulfil peoples' need for a more active figurehead?? Perhaps the roles of

THE PITCAIRN HERITAGE SOCIETY

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Newsletter at some time in the future. It was suggested there might be a Chat Room and a Bulletin Board as well as family trees organised by Lloyd Pitcairn, a Catalogue of Pitcairn artefacts and family photos. It was also thought that it might be a good idea to create a link between the website and the bank, so that annual subscription could be paid that way. All this to be put together by Colin and A.N.Other (if necessary) when he has time!!

President and Reunion Convenor could be combined?? ***Please let us know your thoughts and candidates!!!***

Coat of Arms

With reference to the paragraph 12 above, it might be of interest to members to have more detail on this subject. The Lord Lyon is the one who controls the legal entity of the Scottish Clans as well as all Scottish Arms. It is an office which survives from the 12th Century. He is quite clear that a Chief can

only 'resign or entail' his honours to another if he is a legally recognised chief, which we do not yet have. When we *have* that proper chief, then he could resign etc. It also says that if a family "has the misfortune to find itself with no ascertainable heir and the chiefship is vacant, the selectors will be the landed armigerous (people with coats of arms) magnates of the whole clan ..." We actually *do* have a very good candidate for an ascertainable heir, but even if we didn't, I don't think any of us have ever matriculated a coat of arms, so there are no armigerous Pitcairns, landed or otherwise, to elect a chief.

Personally, I feel that this link with the past will be, like the tartan and the link between the Pennsylvania Pitcairns and ourselves, something which will pull us together still further. To me, it is a vital basic part of our identity as an old Scottish family, and it would be a great pity if we don't pursue it. It would always be a void waiting to be filled; and the tartan would not be able to be made official. We have some funds set aside to do it which may be sufficient. There seems to be a large appetite for the history of the family, and this is at the core of our history.

I will therefore be continuing to find the proofs needed by the Lord Lyon with help from John Wallace and a professional researcher. We have already made a good start.

The Genus *Pitcairnia*

The Eden Project in Cornwall, which will be the largest greenhouse in the world, is intending to grow 3 species of *Pitcairnia* amongst its huge collection of plants.

After the genus *Tillandsia*, the genus *Pitcairnia* ranks as the most prolific of the bromeliad family. So far over 260 species have been described. These abound from Cuba and Mexico south to Argentina, but they are most abundant in Colombia, Peru and Brazil. Just one species is, strangely, found in West Africa. The *Pepinias* are a section of the genus *Pitcairnia*.

Nearly all pitcairnias grow in the ground or on rocks, often in shaded and moist locations; but a number of species have taken to the trees and grow epiphytically. Most are grasslike plants, but a few have a tendency to climb and several resemble yuccas in form.

There are very pretty *Pitcairnias*. The tubular flowers, with their yellow, red, orange, or white petals, are generally produced on tall

stalks. Although the inflorescence will continue to bloom for a period of two to three months, the individual flowers last only a day.

Many are highly decorative and adaptable to the subtropical garden. Otherwise they belong in the temperate greenhouse; easy to grow in shredded moss compost. The only problem is that of insect attack.

It is only difficult to propagate the deciduous species which need a 'rest period' with minimum moisture. As soon as the first leaf appears, give it plenty of water, fertiliser and light.

The evergreen species need half shade and moderate temperature. Propagation is by division of the rhizome or from seed.

So all you gardening Pitcairns: do try your hand at growing a *Pitcairnia* and, if possible, let me know how you get on. I fully intend to do so myself if I can ever get my hands on any rhizomes or seeds!

Dr. William Pitcairn - 1712-1791

To add to what I have already reported in this Newsletter, I must tell you what else I have discovered about this eminent doctor, who was a brother of Major John (of Lexington fame) and son of the Rev. David whose church in Dysart many of us visited this July.

Apart from his brilliant academic and professional career he was, like many medical men of his era, the owner of a botanical garden. His consisted of five acres in Islington, now a suburb of London. He collaborated in this project with his medical colleague Dr. John Fothergill, and together they corresponded with plant collectors all over the world. He employed collectors in the East Indies, West Indies and North America. Together with Sir Joseph Banks they sent William Banks on a collecting venture to West Africa and South Africa. The 250 specimens collected on the Cape Coast are still in the herbarium at the British Museum (Natural History). They also sent Archibald Menzies to the Alps and 77 of the species brought back by him were cultivated in England well into the 20th Century.

Dr. William Pitcairn was at the centre of an energetic community of botanical enthusiasts that enjoyed the finest the world had to offer at that time, not only introducing many species into England but helping with the collection at

the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew and with private collections.

His garden was one of the finest in London, and continued a short time after his death, and as late as 1835 there were a few of the exotic plants growing there before being finally swallowed up by development.

Andrew Pitcairn-Knowles 1871-1956

Many of you will have seen the book (on sale at the Pitcairn2000 event in July) about Andrew Pitcairn-Knowles' life and fabulous Edwardian photographs. The images are startling in their clarity and originality, and are a feast for the eye. They cover topics as wide and varied as sand yachting and motor-racing, skating on the frozen canals in Holland, animal markets in Paris, and the Epsom Derby.

If you would like a copy, write to Richard Pitcairn-Knowles at 46 Greenhill Road, Otford, Sevenoaks, Kent. TN13 5RS. UK. Tel. 01959 523154. The book is called *'The Edwardian Eye of Andrew Pitcairn-Knowles'*; ISBN 1 85776 427 7. 160 pages. Price £25 from bookshops. Also available from Amazon. Signed copies from Richard for £28 incl.P&P.

Richard is a retired Osteopath who is now working on the letters written by Margaret to Andrew Pitcairn-Knowles between 1898 and 1945.

News from Pitcairn Island

The island which bears our name finds itself in a completely new situation. It's history began with terrible blood-letting before the island came under the rule of law. Since then there has been hardly any crime at all. The last time the Magistrates' Court sat was 20 years ago and there has never been a High Court trial. This may be about to change due to allegations of assault on a female islander by New Zealand visitor. The Foreign Office is considering whether to ship British lawyers, judges and jurors to the island at enormous cost.

Dea Birkett, who spent 4 months on the island researching her book 'Serpent in Paradise', is of the opinion that the island is not the haven from crime which its reputation suggests. *"It is a small island in a remote place and because of that it can be a festering boil of difficulties and problems from which people cannot escape."*

Tartan

Following the success of the arrangement we made with our weaver Ken Dalgliesh for the Pitcairn2000 event, we have come to a permanent arrangement with him whereby all orders are made direct from him and he is willing to contribute 10% of all Pitcairn sales to the Pitcairn Heritage Society.

So, for all those who wish to order kilts, sashes, ties, cummerbunds, scarves etc. etc. in the Pitcairn tartan (either Modern or Ancient colours), please communicate direct from now on with:

D.C.Dalgliesh Ltd., Dunsdale Mill, Selkirk, Scotland. TD7 5EB. Tel. 01750 20781 or Fax - 01750 20502.

'Scottish Field' Magazine article

The 'Scottish Field' have published their long-awaited article on our gathering. It is in their November issue. Most of you will already know, but for those who don't:

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You can pay by Credit Card.

NB Get there as soon as you can before they run out.

Membership Subscriptions

As agreed at our meeting, the new membership subscription is to be \$35/£23 a year.

This is to make certain there is enough money *in advance* to stage the 2004 Reunion; to do historical research and to enable the purchase of small stocks of Pitcairn merchandise.

We are now inviting members to renew for the 2001 calendar year.

Please use the 'Tear-Off Slip' on Page 3.

The first 20 to send their subscriptions will receive a set of five A4 size, laser-copies:

- A colour portrait of Dr. William Pitcairn painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds.
- A colour portrait of his nephew Dr. David Pitcairn painted by Hoppner
- A black & white portrait of Dr. Archibald Pitcairn by Sir John Medina.
- A black & white portrait of Sir James Pitcairn.
- A colour picture of the oldest known golfing trophy, 'The Imari Bowl', awarded to John Pitcairn in 1814.