

RESONANCE

A Monthly Publication of Clan Bell Society

January 2020

Volume 1, Issue 1

Message from the President



On behalf of the board of directors, I am pleased to announce the beginning of a new Bell family organization – Clan Bell Society, Inc. Born out of a need for our family to have a more effective unifying presence, Clan Bell Society officially

launched and rang in the New Year on January 1, 2020. Organized as a nonprofit, our mission is to unite all Bells (including various related spellings) and advance the standing of Clan Bell throughout the world.

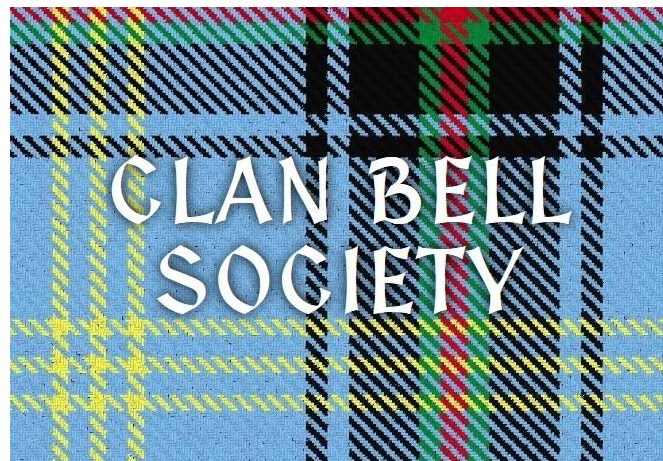
The symbolism of launching this project in 2020 is not lost on me. Together, with the efforts of other Bells and organizations around the world, it is my hope that our view of the overall Bell picture will come into focus and bring us closer to seeing with perfect 20/20 vision.

We hope you enjoy our offering as much as we enjoy bringing it to you. May you and your families have a healthy and prosperous New Year!

Slàinte,

Michael A. Bell

Michael A. Bell
President



Introducing the Officers of Clan Bell Society

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| President: | Michael Bell |
| Vice President: | David Bell |
| Vice President: | Lester Bell |
| Vice President: | Pauline Bell |
| Secretary & Treasurer: | Nancy Worley |
| Social Media Director: | Kellie Hendley |
| Member at Large: | William Bell |
| Ambassador: | Raymond Bell |
| Ambassador: | Ronald Bell |

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Bell's Leatherworks

By Nancy Worley

Wes Bell started working in leather in 2017 after going to a Renaissance Festival and loving the history and amazing costumes folks were wearing. In fact, his first date with his wife, Jo Jessica Bell, was at the Texas Renaissance Festival and together with their 14-year-old daughter, Gianna Elizabeth Leger-Wells, they happily welcomed a baby boy, Caelum Wescott Bell, into their family 5 months ago.



As an artist who worked on customizing cars, he thought he'd be able to give leatherwork a try and the rest, as they say, is history. Things for Bell's Leatherworks took off this year solely through word of mouth. What began with belt pouches quickly morphed into armor and many types of custom work. In fact, what Wes specializes in is custom work. He's done everything from full sets of armor, to hunting bags with fur linings, to a new Wonder Woman project currently in the works. Most of his work incorporates Viking, Norse, and Celtic motifs and he'd be happy to incorporate Clan Bell themed motifs into hand tooled leather. Lead times vary depending on the piece and how many orders his one-man operation has on the table.

There is much more to come from Bell's Leatherworks as he's headed to England and Scotland next year where he plans to spend some time exploring his Bell reiver roots.

Bells Leatherworks plans to be at the following locations this year:

The Texas Renaissance Festival
October 3 – November 29, 2020

<https://www.texrenfest.com/>

The Texas Viking Festival at Valkyrie Ranch

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

Additionally, you can reach Bells Leatherworks on Etsy at:

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/BellsLeatherWorksCo>

And on Facebook at:

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



Border Reivers

Location: Scottish Borders, England

A BACKGROUND TO THE BORDER REIVERS

"If Jesus Christ were emongest them they would deceave him, if he woulde here, trust and followe their wicked counsell!"

(Richard Fenwick 1597)

WHO WERE THEY?

Border reivers were raiders along the Anglo-Scottish border from the late 13th century to the beginning of the 17th century.

Their heyday was in the last hundred years of their existence, during the time of the Stuart Kings in Scotland and the Tudor dynasty in England.

Their ranks consisted of both Scottish and English people, and they raided the entire Border country without regard to their victims' nationality.

WHEN DID REIVING OCCUR?

Scotland and England were frequently at war during the late Middle Ages. In 1249 The Laws of the Marches were set up jointly by the English & Scottish governments to better manage the Border, which was a hugely lawless and often dangerous place to live.

By 1297 there were three main administrative areas on each side of the Border, to try to bring about a semblance of order: The East; The Middle; and The West Marches were overseen by March Wardens, as well as a separate keeper for the more troublesome valley of Liddesdale. It's fascinating to look at the surnames of the clans in each of these Marches, as you can still identify with surnames of people who live there today.

The Heart of Hadrian's Wall lies mainly within the English Middle March, which for the next three centuries, the land North and South of the Anglo-Scottish border was a bad place to live. Bannock Burn in 1314, Flodden in 1513 and other international disputes colored the landscape and the centuries in more ways than one.

WHAT DID THE REIVERS DO?

Essentially, reivers went raiding on sturdy ponies or nags who could easily traverse the rough terrain in the Borderlands, with the intent of bringing home cattle and horses, and any other portable goods if they could get their hands on them. A raiding group could consist of anything from a few dozen to three thousand riders, and they would be armed with anything from a lance to a crossbow, pistol, sword or dirk.

Relationships between the Border clans varied from uneasy alliance to open, deadly feud. It took little to start a feud; a chance quarrel or misuse of office was sufficient, and these feuds might continue for years.

HOW COULD YOU STOP THEM?

In essence, you couldn't stop three thousand reivers from escaping with your cattle or horses, but there were measures that taken to try to minimize the damage. Bastle houses and Peel towers were built for accommodation to make it difficult for raiders to enter or burn the dwellings to the ground, if the livestock weren't sheltered in the ground floor space, a protective wall was often built around the dwelling to keep them protected.

CLAN SURNAMES IN THE MARCHES

The historic riding surnames recorded by George MacDonald Fraser in *The Steel Bonnets* (1971) are:

(continued on page 4)

East March

Scotland: Hume, Trotter, Dixon, Bromfield, Craw, Cranston.

England: Forster, Selby, Gray, Dunn.

Middle March

Scotland: Burns, Kerr, Young, Pringle, Davison, Gilchrist, Tait of East Teviotdale. Scott, Oliver, Turnbull, Rutherford of West Teviotdale. Armstrong, Croser, Elliot, Nixon, Douglas, Laidlaw, Routledge, Turner, Henderson of Liddesdale.

England: Anderson, Potts, Reed, Hall, Hedley of Redesdale. Charlton, Robson, Dodd, Dodds, Milburn, Yarrow, Stapleton of Tynedale. Also Fenwick, Ogle, Heron, Witherington, Medford (later Mitford), Collingwood, Carnaby, Shaftoe, Ridley, Stokoe, Stamper, Wilkinson, Hunter, Thomson, Jamieson.

West March

Scotland: Bell, Irvine, Johnstone, Maxwell, Carlisle, Beattie, Little, Carruthers, Glendenning, Routledge, Moffat.

England: Graham, Hetherington, Musgrave, Storey, Lowther, Curwen, Salkeld, Dacre, Harden, Hodgson, Routledge, Tailor, Noble.

WHEN DID THEY DIE OUT?

Fueled by international unrest and ongoing family feuds, a state of lawlessness prevailed until the union of the crowns in the 17th Century. Even in the latter days of Reiving, at the time of the accession of James VI of Scotland to the English throne in 1603, the brief period after Elizabeth's death was known as "Busy Week" since the Reivers believed that, with no head of state, no law could be enforced and so raided accordingly.

Following a scorched earth policy pursued by successive national armies, local families were forced to survive by raiding or Reiving cattle and goods from their neighbors. A network of secret trails and pathways developed over the boggy moorlands. The Tarras Moss, Spadeadam Waste and Deadwater Fell became places where herds could be hidden and families could hide out.

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www.heartofhadrianswall.com

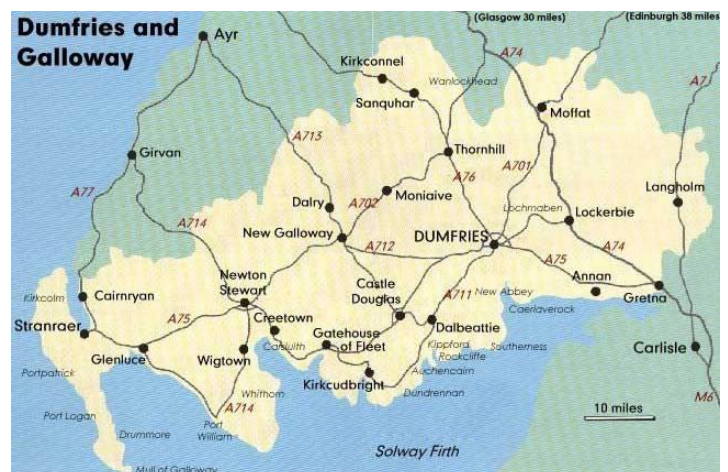
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As Numerous as the Bells of Middlebie

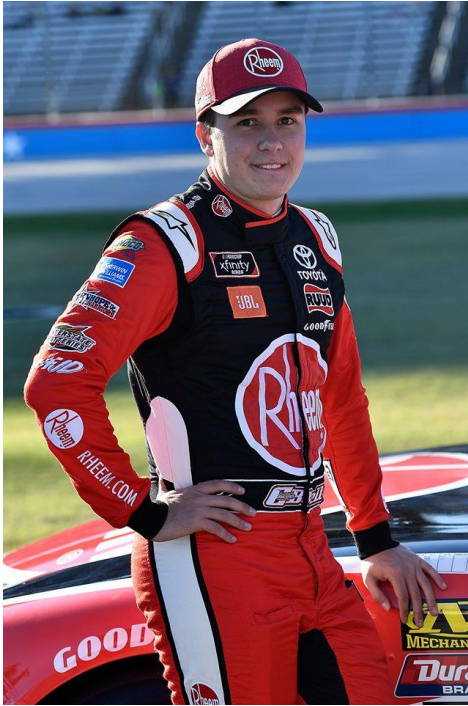
There is an old Scots saying, "As numerous as the Bells of Middlebie." Over the last 140 years, the National Records of Scotland has published several surveys of surnames in Scotland's counties. These surveys were based on names appearing in the official registers of births, marriages and deaths. Reprinted below are the ten most common surnames appearing in the historic county of Dumfries in the 1901 Census.

| Dumfries | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-------|
| Total number of names: 72,522 | | |
| 1 | Bell | 1,546 |
| 2 | Johnstone | 1,365 |
| 3 | Irving | 1,140 |
| 4 | Wilson | 1,091 |
| 5 | Smith | 1,070 |
| 6 | Thomson | 995 |
| 7 | Graham | 980 |
| 8 | Scott | 890 |
| 9 | Brown | 820 |
| 10 | Kerr | 729 |



(Retrieved from <https://www.dumfries-and-galloway.co.uk/maps/map.htm>)

Bells in the News



Get ready to cheer on Christopher Bell as he steps into the driver's seat of the No. 95 Toyota Camry for the upcoming NASCAR Cup Series season. The young racer was promoted to the sport's premiere series after three years of driving in the Xfinity Series, where he rang up 16 wins in just 74 races. Driving as a rookie for Leavine Family Racing, Bell will compete full-time in the 2020 NASCAR Cup Series with Rheem Manufacturing Company as his primary sponsor.

"Since I was young, I wanted to make a career out of racing," Bell said in a statement. "To take this next step and race in the NASCAR Cup Series with the support of LFR, JGR (affiliate partner Joe Gibbs Racing) and Toyota is just a dream come true. It also means a lot to me to have Rheem make the move to Cup racing with me. I wouldn't be in the position I am today without their support."

The 2020 racing season gets under way on Sunday, February 16th with the 62nd annual running of the Daytona 500. Good luck this season, Christopher!



The Codemasters Software Company Limited, doing business as Codemasters, is a British video game developer and publisher based in Southam, England.

On December 10, 2019, Codemasters said it had appointed Ian Bell as an executive director of the company with immediate effect.



Bell founded SMS in 2009, a multi-platform video game developer renowned for developing 'critically acclaimed and commercially successful racing franchises and games including Project CARS and Need For Speed Shift,' the company said. Bell would continue with his role as chief executive officer of Slightly Mad Studios.

Actress Lake Bell has recently been busy promoting her animated DC Universe series Harley Quinn, in which she voices Batman villainess Poison Ivy.



Bell also stars with Dax Shepard in Bless This Mess, where they play a newlywed couple adjusting to a quieter pace of life in Nebraska after a move from the big city. Bless This Mess is currently in its second season on ABC.

CLAN BELL SOCIETY

IS LOOKING FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS

Want to help out? There are many things you can do! You can attend a Scottish event, wear your tartan with pride, or get together with other Bells in your area for a lunch or dinner. The options are endless – just be creative and use your imagination. The main goal is to celebrate Clan Bell whenever you can!

You can also join our team. We are currently recruiting tent hosts for events all across the country. All that is needed is a desire to represent your clan and a welcoming smile! We will assist you with the rest. To learn more, contact our VP of Commissioner Affairs, Lester Bell, at riptorn62@yahoo.com and he will happy to answer any questions you may have.

A Note from the Editor

Do you have a family member who's had a recent accomplishment or notable event? Would you like to share it with your extended Clan Bell family? Then we want to hear from you!



Please send your submissions, including photos and a brief description, to the editor for inclusion in a future edition of *Resonance*. Submissions can be sent to editor@clanbellsociety.org. Please note all submissions are subject to editorial review and revision.

Fur Baby Bells

Those of us who have pets love our fur babies like family. Here is your chance to showcase your pet in our newsletter.



Pet families are encouraged to send in their Fur Baby Bell pictures to editor@clanbellsociety.com. Pets may be pictured with or without their humans. Bonus points for pets wearing the Bell tartan! This will be a recurring feature in our newsletter and pet pictures will be published as needed. Please note all submissions are subject to editorial review and revision.



Events Schedule

Clan Bell Society will be at these events in the near future:

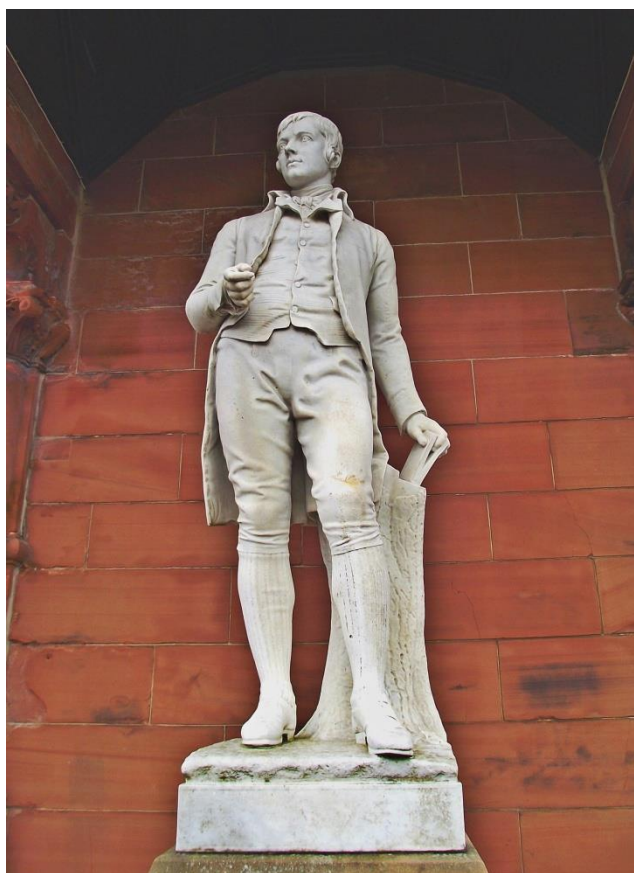
March 7, 2020

Panama City Beach Scottish Festival
Panama City Beach, FL

March 7-8, 2020

Phoenix Scottish Games
Phoenix, AZ

More events will be announced soon!



Remember to raise a wee dram for Scotland's favorite bard, Robert Burns, who was born on January 25, 1759.

Contact Information

PRESIDENT

Michael Bell president@clanbellsociety.org

VICE PRESIDENT

David Bell debellinn@reagan.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Pauline Bell wantelope@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Lester Bell riptorn62@yahoo.com

SECRETARY & TREASURER

Nancy Worley secretary@clanbellsociety.org

DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Kellie Hendley media@clanbellsociety.org

MEMBER AT LARGE

William Bell clanbellwilliam@yahoo.com

AMBASSADOR

Raymond Bell rebell2661@gmail.com

AMBASSADOR

Ronald Bell norsbeer@comcast.net

NEWSLETTER

Editor editor@clanbellsociety.org

GENERAL INFORMATION

Staff info@clanbellsociety.org

Clan Bell Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 975
Crestview, FL 32539

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