



## THE DURIE FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Newsletter Number 8 Summer 2014

Dear Fellow Member,

Well, **The Durie Gathering** has now taken place – and it was great! A very happy Gathering with lots to see and do. As one Durie said at the end, ‘I feel that I have made 18 new friends’. What follows are my brief personal impressions. A full account will appear shortly on the website.

We stayed at the Mercure Hotel in Edinburgh – seen here through a gun port in the Durie Battery (better known as the Half Moon Battery but designed by a Frenchman, Capt. Theodore Dury or Durie) in Edinburgh Castle.



Our first day was spent in Dunfermline. Here are most of us gathered in the Abbey at the memorial plaque to George Durie, last Abbot of Dunfermline, and to other Duries in his line.



We were privileged to attend, at the invitation of Andrew Bruce, Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, a memorial service in Dunfermline Abbey Church marking the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn.

**Chief:** Andrew Durie of Durie, CBE DL  
**Honorary Treasurer:** Alistair Durie, FCA  
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We spent the next day in Edinburgh, walking down the Royal Mile from the Castle to Holyrood House, by way of John Knox’s House, (known to us as George Durie’s house – Abbot George occupied it while still Abbot of Dunfermline) before finishing with a fascinating whisky tasting of the Durie whiskies.

The third day was the most varied and most relaxed! It included visiting the 30m high metal sculptures of water-horses (‘Kelpies!’) near the Falkirk Wheel, a superb picnic lunch at Touch (*pronounced tooch – ‘ch’ as in ‘loch’!*) House near Stirling, before a re-enactment of the Battle of Bannockburn and an opportunity to hear Bruce Durie talking about genealogy.



The day ended with a delightful dinner hosted by the Chief, Andrew Durie of Durie and his wife, Marguerite, at their home ‘Finnich Malise’ near Loch Lomond where we were delighted to hear the first ever performance of a new pipe tune ‘Finnich Malise’ composed and played by Pipe Major David Moir.

The last morning was spent at Stirling Castle – the first time I have visited it – I found it in some ways more interesting than Edinburgh Castle. It is the former home to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, a regiment in which Andrew and his father both served.

Finally, a farewell lunch, happy memories and sad *au revoirs*, with speculation rife about future Gatherings.

Our grateful thanks to the organisers of the tour, MacDonald and Rees and especially also to Andrew and Marguerite.

**Chairman:** Sir David Durie, KCMG  
**Honorary Secretary:** Christian Dewar Durie, FRSA  
**e-mail:** [secretary@duriefamily.co.uk](mailto:secretary@duriefamily.co.uk)

## **Durie Family Trees.**

After much technical trial and error, the Chief's *Shenachie* and Durie Family Association genealogist, Dr Bruce Durie, has managed to find a way of producing our various family trees in a way that is easily accessible online from the DFA website. We hope that the trees that members have already sent will shortly be available for scrutiny alongside the larger database.

Inevitably, initially at any rate, some corrections are likely to be necessary to ensure that all the information is as up-to-date and as reliable as possible. But this will be a major development when it happens, and we will notify you when the new material is on the website. I know that it is what many of you have patiently been waiting for!

## **Durie family crests**

In my last newsletter (No. 7 Spring 2014), I drew attention to the crest that a number of Duries have on signet rings – especially a dove holding an olive branch (or a rose!). You will find a number of comments on this on the Website Forum.

One of the Duries taking part in the Gathering also had this crest on his signet ring. It would be interesting to get his history there too – and yours, if you have something similar. Where did it come from? What family history goes with it?

## **Merchandise – ScotClans and Durie Tartan**

We have found a new supplier of Durie tartan which is now available in two weights, kilt weight and a lighter weight suitable for scarves and ties etc. These can now be ordered via [www.ScotClans.com](http://www.ScotClans.com) (see *Merchandise & Services* on the DFA website). Margaret from ScotClans was present at the start of the Durie Gathering and a number of us placed orders – mine has just been delivered and fully meets my expectations. The ScotClans range of Durie merchandise continues to increase and now includes engraved crystal and metalware.

## **New DNA info**

The website will shortly have a new page summarising what we know of the DNA results for members who have tested. The more members who test, the better the information will be, and the closer we will be to finding the “Dinosaur Durie” –one who carries the Y-DNA signature of the original line, before it diverged in the 1490s.

Also, those who have undertaken tests are encouraged to refine their results by further testing. Bruce will be in touch on a one-by-one basis to explore this.

## **Grandfather Mountain Games**

Our *Shenachie* is just back from North Carolina, where he took part in the COSCA Clan Caucus and the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games – said to be the largest Games in North America.

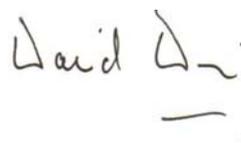
Bruce debated with Dr. Michael Newton their differing viewpoints on heroism, myth-making and the Gaelic reality of Scottish American history. Bruce also delivered a number of Workshops on genealogical topics, and was Guest of Honour at the Clan Stewart Society annual dinner, where he spoke on the subject: “No-one Is Descended From Mary, Queen of Scots”. He survived, un-lynched!

## **New Members**

Inspired by the Gathering, we are keen to enlarge membership of the Durie Family Association and the opportunities it offers to exchange family information and to get to know other Duries (Duryrs, Dowries etc). Incidentally, the spelling of the name did not standardise on Durie until very late. We have examples of Doorries, Dowries, Dowerys, Durries and Duryrs as well as Duries, in the same family and alternative spellings even in the same document. The pronunciation, particularly in Scotland may have been “doory” or “durry” for all of them, however spelled.

Membership continues to rise gradually but we would love more. Please spread the word among your Durie relations, including by sending them a copy of this letter and giving them the link to the DFA website ([www.duriefamily.co.uk](http://www.duriefamily.co.uk))

Yours aye,



Sir David Durie, KCMG, Chairman

*PS* The DFA website will shortly contain a complete description of the Gathering. And we will open a Forum page for comment and suggestions for possible future events.