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# The *Lichtsomen Lindsay*s

*Who And What We Are...Information For Prospective Members*

Issued 2002



The Rt. Hon. Robert Alexander Lindsay  
29th Earl of Crawford,  
12th Earl of Balcarres,  
KT, PC, DL  
and  
Lady Crawford

In the Pleasance at Edzell Castle-August 1998-celebrating the 600th anniversary of the creation of the Earldom of Crawford.

## About the Chief of Clan Lindsay...

Lord Crawford holds the title of Lord Lindsay of Crawford which his ancestors have held since before 1143. He is the Premier Earl of Scotland and Head of the House of Lindsay. He was created a Life Peer in 1974 whilst his father was also in the House of Lords.

Lord Crawford was born in 1927. He served with the Grenadier Guards in the Middle East and after the War was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge. He had a political career, being elected a Conservative Member of Parliament from 1955 to 1974. In Parliament he was the Conservative Front Bench Spokesman on Health and Social Security 1967-70, Minister of State for Defense 1970-72 and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs 1972-74.

His business career has included his being First Commissioner for the Crown Estate and a Director of National Westminster Bank and the Scottish American Investment Trust. He is Chairman of the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of Scotland.

He is married to Ruth Meyer of Zurich, Switzerland. They have two sons, two daughters and ten grandchildren.

Lord and Lady Crawford were Distinguished Guests at the 1989 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. A record number of members attended the Games. Approximately 125 Clan Lindsay USA members and guests attended the banquet and ceilidh held on Saturday night. Lord and Lady Crawford led the Clan Lindsay contingent in the Parade of Tartans on Sunday morning. All who were able to attend enjoyed the memorable weekend.

On July 14, 1997, Lord Crawford was installed a Knight of the Thistle in Thistle Chapel of St. Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh.

Clan Lindsay USA has made two pilgrimages to Scotland-first in 1990 and again in 1997. On both occasions, those participating were privileged to be invited to Balcarres House for tea with Lord and Lady Crawford.

Lord Crawford is an accomplished historian and is a particularly informed and interesting relater of Lindsay and Scottish history. It is easy to imagine that Sir David Lindsay of Glenesk, the first Earl of Crawford, would deem himself "in good company" with the present earl.

# CLAN LINDSAY ASSOCIATION USA, INC.

P.O. Box 528  
Clemmons, NC  
27012-0528



## Clan Motto

*Endure Fort: Endure with strength*

## Clan Chief

The Right Honorable The Earl of Crawford and Balcarres

## Founders

Mr. and Mrs. William S. Lindsay  
Dr. and Mrs. James B. Pressly

## Elected Officers

President Vice  
President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Registrar  
Genealogist  
Councillor  
Councillor  
Councillor  
Ex-Officio  
(Immediate Past President)

## Appointed Officers

Historian Pipe  
Major Drum  
Major Clan  
Chaplain  
Associate Chaplain Assistant  
to the Treasurer Lindsay  
Marketplace Manager  
Editor, *The Clan Lindsay Recorder*

*The Lichtsome Lindsays*, the title given this generic issue, comes from the sobriquet given the Lindsays by poets and other Clans in centuries past. It is also the title given an interim newsletter produced in the 1980's by George and Betty Warwick. [Lichtsome: of a cheerful and lively nature. (lichtsome is pronounced as if it were spelt "lightsome" ) ]

## How Clan Lindsay USA began...

For a number of years, Mr. and Mrs. William S. Lindsay of Greenville, South Carolina were Registrars of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games and also represented the Clan Lindsay Society of Scotland.

In 1973, Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay, along with Dr. James Pressly, approached the Lindsay Society of Scotland with the idea of forming a branch in the United States. Due to the restrictive nature of the Scottish Society's charter, it became clear that an independent American organization would best serve the needs of Scottish Americans.

At that time, a decision was made to accept the publication Kith and Kin as the authority of septs for membership in Clan Lindsay USA. These guidelines allowed enough members to be found in authorized septs to form a viable organization.

Clan Lindsay Association USA, received its Certificate of Incorporation from the State of South Carolina on February 1, 1974 and held the Charter meeting on July 14, 1974 at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in Linville, North Carolina. The Charter Members voted in a slate of officers to start the Clan on its way to what it is today.

## Who Can Join Clan Lindsay...

### Any person meeting one of these requirements:

1. Is of Scottish descent and whose ancestors bear the surname Lindsay (several spellings are accepted); or that is one of the sept names (several spellings accepted): Byers, Cobb, Crawford, Fotheringham, Rhind, Deuchar, Downie, Summers or Sumner; or that of Affleck-hereditary armor bearers to the Earls of Crawford (several spellings accepted).
2. The spouse of a qualifying member.

## What Does It Cost To Join?

Various categories of membership are available. Dues and fees are as follows and include a one time initiation fee of \$5:

Individual	\$ 25.00
Family	\$ 35.00
Junior	\$ 10.00

Life Memberships are available based on age at time of application. Fees are:

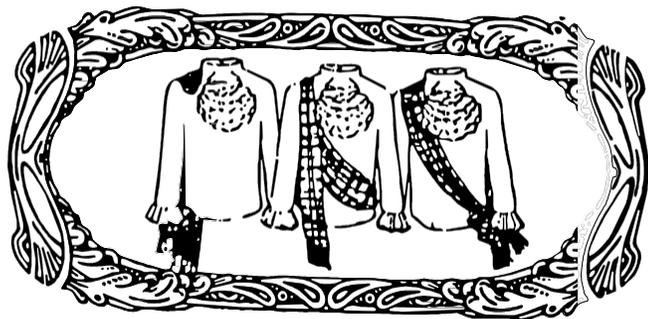
Age 60 & over	\$ 155.00
Age 40-59	\$ 305.00
Age 20-39	\$ 455.00
Age 0-19	\$ 605.00

Membership fees are subject to change without notice.

## Association Objectives

The objectives as set forth in the Certificate of Incorporation and defined in the By-laws include the following:

1. To make charitable and educational assistance available to men and women of Scottish descent or to lineal descendants of men and women of Scottish descent.
2. To perpetuate Scottish traditions, customs and culture.
3. To promote the social contact of the membership.
4. To encourage genealogical study and research among the members, and to offer assistance when possible.



These Are The Traditional Ways A Sash Is Worn By Ladies, And Bear The Approval Of The Lord Lyon, King Of Arms

Country dancers or ladies desiring to keep the front of their dress clear secure the center of the sash with a button or small belt at the back of the waist. It is secured at the right shoulder by a pin or brooch so that the ends fall backwards.

Clanswomen wear the sash over the right shoulder fastened with a sash brooch. This is the way the sash is most often seen worn.

Sash is worn over the right shoulder secured there with a pin and fastened with a bow on the left hip by ladies married out of their clan but wearing their original Clan Tartan.

[The Lindsay Recorder-Volume 6, #5-June 1983]



EVENING WEAR FOR GENTLEMEN

Evening wear in Highland Dress means "formal" (not the time of day you wear it). White or cream colour hose are correct, with any colour flashes. Choose a fur sporran, black bonnet, dress shirt and shoes, dress skean dhu. Any Tartan is correct for your kilt, (hunting, dress, etc.) and you should wear a Prince Charlie coatee and waistcoat with a black bow tie.

Montrose and Kenmore evening jackets also may be worn. A plaid, plaid brooch, shoe buckles, or dirk are not required, but may be added for a truly splendid outfit.



[The Lindsay Recorder—Vol. 6 #5-June 1983]

Since Scots in Scotland observe the religious holidays with quiet dignity and reverence, the most lively and thoroughly celebrated holiday is Hogmanay. (Hog'-ma-nay')

It begins late in the evening on December 31st. After the house receives the very best cleaning ever ( even if the house does not get a proper cleaning all year, it must be immaculate to welcome in the new year!), supper is laid in because guests will be dropping in at midnight and must be offered food and drink.

The celebration does not begin until midnight...and everyone knows when that hour comes because the church bells ring and, if you live near the sea or a river, you will hear the boats and ships toot their horns.

When the signal is over, the occupants of the house open the front door for "first footing". The first person to set foot over the threshold in the new year should be black-haired, to ensure good luck to all who dwell therein, and should, preferably, be a man. Red-haired people are considered bad luck and are "encouraged" to come in last.

The first-footer says, as he enters, "Lang may your lum reek!". (The literal translation is: "Long may your chimney smoke!", but the intended wish is: "May you always have warmth!".) The black-haired guest then presents three gifts to the host family: a piece of coal for warmth, bread or cake for food and whiskey for drink. Everyone is hugged and wished "Happy New Year!".

A window is opened from the top and the bottom to let the old year out and the new year in.

The host family and their guests drink toasts to the new year and proceed to enjoy the thoughtfully laid-in supper in a spirited celebration of Hogmanay!



SCHOLARSHIPS

Clan Lindsay offers scholarships to those people interested in learning the Scottish Arts. The scholarships given so far have been predominantly for the study of dance, drumming and piping. If any member knows of an interested person, he or she may contact the Area Representative at the Clan tent or write to the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee for application forms. Forms are also available on the website: [clanlindsayusa.org](http://clanlindsayusa.org).

The Scholarship Program is one of the stated objectives of Clan Lindsay and is generously funded to qualifying applicants. Applicants need not be a member of Clan Lindsay.

Along with the general Scholarships, Clan Lindsay is now able to offer the James B. Pressly Memorial Scholarship for the study of genealogy or cultural heritage. Application may be made to the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee. Applicants must be members of Clan Lindsay USA.

The recommendations of the Scholarship Committee, for the calendar year, are presented to Council at the Spring Council Meeting in April. The schools for the Scottish Arts hold sessions in the Summer so that young students may participate without interrupting their regular academic term, although people of any age may apply.

## HISTORY

### Lindsay Origins

"Of Ingloand coyme the Lynddissay, Mair of thaim I can noucht say." Andrew Wyntoun, c. 1420

Much more has been said about the origins of the Lindsays; little, if any, has been proven.

For centuries, histories about this noble name have stated that they are of Norman descent. However, recent research shows that the family came from Flanders in the 11th century to Lindsey in Lincolnshire, England and then a generation later to Scotland.

The first of the family in England was Gilbert de Ghent, son of Ralf, Lord of Alost and Gisela of Luxembourg. Ralfheld the Comte in Flanders 1031-1052. Gilbert received a huge reward for his role in subjugating England -172 manors, mainly in Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire, of which over 100 were in Lindsey. It was, however, his son Walter, calling himself Walter de Lindeseia, who died in 1139, who was the progenitor of the Clan in Scotland.

### Lindsays in Scotland

Early history of a family is much easier to establish when it can be substantiated by charter evidence. This evidence starts with Walter de Lindeseia, who sat as a member of Prince David's council in the Scottish borders (Cumbria) along with other Norman Knights in the early part of the 12th century. When this Prince became King of Scotland, he placed these Knights as Great Barons in the power structure. Walter was given Ercildoune (Earlston) first and later Luffness. The earliest Charter we know of him signing is dated about 1120. Walter was followed by two Williams in the ordinary line of succession.

In the reign of William the Lion, 1165-1214, the greater part of the parish of Crawford was held by William de Lindsay, the first Lindsay found associated with the territory of Crawford. Mr. W. A. Lindsay, the Windsor Herald writes in 1901, "It is not probable that Barons who took a leading part in the Government of Scotland lived regularly in a spot so remote and so inaccessible as Crawford." He also says that the Lindsays held the more important fief of Luffness and was described in Parliament as Baron of Luffness. To a Lindsay of antiquarian taste, Crawford would be of great interest because of its strategic situation, but there is little outward and visible token of the scenes which imagination would seek to revive.

David Lindsay of Glenesk was, by solemn belting and investiture, created Earl of Crawford by his brother-in-law, Robert, III, on the 21st of April, 1398 in the Parliament held at Perth. This creation was accompanied by a regrant of the principal fief of Crawford "with a regality" and a herald called Lindsay was then created. Though the Lindsays were now situated in Glenesk in Angus, Crawford was their principal fief and remained so until the 5th Earl resigned the superiority of the various lands in the barony of Crawford.

Earl David permanently fixed the main dwelling place of his family at the castle of Finhaven in Angus. The

urban dwelling of the Crawford house was in Dundee. At this time the Lindsays possessed more than twenty great baronies and lordships, besides other lands of minor importance.

Land in those days gave to the holders little more than the bodily service of the vassals who tilled them, or rather, who lived on their natural produce. The Lindsays are, however, to be looked on in all respects as a powerful house, Sheriffs in their day of the shires of Forfar or Aberdeen. Through the centuries, the Lindsays have been eminent in many fields of endeavor. David Lyndsay, Lord Lyon, King at Arms, was also a playwright and poet of the Reformation. His fame is rivaled by that of Robert Lindsay of Pitscottie, whose History of Scotland is one of the most valuable national documents. Lady Anne Lindsay, daughter of James Lindsay, the 5th Earl of Balcarres, wrote "Auld Robin Gray", one of the finest and most favorite of Scottish ballads. Rev. David Lindsay, minister of Leith, became Bishop of Ross in 1600. Patrick Lyndsay was Archbishop of Glasgow. David Lindsay, Bishop of Edinburgh, crowned Charles I at Holyrood in 1633. James Bowman Lindsay, the Forfarshire weaver, electrician and philologist, patented a wireless system of telegraphy in 1854. Marconi credits him as being his true predecessor.

A Lindsay was one of ten people who signed the Declaration of Arbroath, declaring Scotland totally independent of England. They were allies of Robert the Bruce and fought in Bannockburn. They intermarried with the family of William Wallace and handed over some of their castles to help him in his great battle for independence.

The 20th Earl of Crawford raised the Black Watch regiment in 1739, which was originally called the Lindsay-Crawford Regiment. Today, they still stand guard over Edinburgh Castle. Later, this Earl commanded the Scots Grays. Robert Lindsay, cousin to the 26th Earl, was the first recipient of the Victoria Cross.

Lord Crawford, current chief of the family, is the 29th holder of the title and 40th feudal lord Lindsay of Crawford. He is the premier Earl of Scotland. If precedence were determined by length of service in Parliament, he would also be the premier peer of the Empire, for his predecessors and he have sat in every Parliament, either Scottish or British, since 1147.

Written by:

Anne L. Alexander, FSA Scot.

Historian

Clan Lindsay Association, USA

January, 2001

Amended and Approved by:

Robert Alexander Lindsay,

29th Earl of Crawford, 12th Earl of Balcarres

References:

Lord Lindsay: Lives of the Lindsays, volume 1, 1849.

Jervise: Land of the Lindsays, 1853.

Smibert: Clans of the Highlands of Scotland, 1850.

Platts, Beryl: Scottish Hazard, volumes 1 & 2. 1985 and 1990.

Publications of the Clan Lindsay Society, Scotland, 1900 to date.



## The First Earl of Crawford

On the 21st of April, 1398 Sir David Lindsay of Glenesk (Edzell) was created Earl of Crawford, by solemn belting and investiture, in the parliament held at Perth that year.

The first earl was married to Elizabeth, daughter of Robert II. He was considered as a bright example of knightly worth, the accomplishments of the warrior combining in his character with the amiable qualities of the man, while both were enlivened by a spirit of repartee, of which more than one sally is recorded by the old chroniclers of Scotland. Of his chivalrous expedition to the court of England, undertaken in his twenty-fifth year, 1390, they have given us ample details, dwelling upon them with peculiar satisfaction, our countrymen having distinguished themselves so highly in every contest This "passage of arms" originated as follows:

John Lord Welles, a warrior of great celebrity, having been sent ambassador into Scotland by Richard II, chanced to be carousing with the Scottish nobles at a solemn banquet, where the conversation, turning on valiant deeds of arms, and Sir David eagerly extolling the prowess of his countrymen, he exclaimed, "Let words have no place; if you know not the chivalry and valiant deeds of Englishmen, assail ye me, day and place where ye list, and ye shall soon have experience." Then said Sir David. "I will assail ye!" Lord Welles naming London Bridge for the place, Sir David appointed the festival of St George for the day of combat, "be reason that he was some-time ane valiant knight, " and forthwith began preparations for his expedition.

All being ready, in the words of the Prior of Lochleven,

" A thousand, three hunder and ninety year  
Fra the birth of our Lord dear,  
The good Lyndyssay, Sir Davie,  
Of Glenesk the Lord mightie,  
Honest, able and avenand (handsome), Pass'd  
on conduct (safe conduct) in England. With  
knights, squires and other men  
Of his awin retinue then;  
Where he and all his company  
Wes well arrayed and daintily,  
And all purveyed at device;  
There wes his purpose to win prise,"

He was received with high honour by King Richard and on the appointed day, both parties appearing in great state at London Bridge, cased in armour of proof, and mounted on mighty war horses, he entered the lists against the Lord of Welles. The scene was splendid; the fair ladies and gallant knights of Richard's court were seated all around--the King and Queen, Anne of Bohemia, in the highest places of honour, while a great concourse of the common people attended, attracted by the interest of the spectacle and the fame of the antagonists.

After the usual preliminary ceremonies, at the stirring blast of the trumpet, the knights rushed at each other on their "mighty horses right eagerly", with spears sharply

ground, "to the death" they attained\*, and both spears were broken. In this adventure, the Scottish knight sat so strong that, although Lord Welles' spear was shivered to pieces on his helmet and visor, he stirred not, insomuch that the spectators cried out that, contrary to the law of arms, he was "locked" or tied to the saddle. This suspicion he disproved by riding up to the royal chair, vaulting lightly out of his saddle, making his obeisance to royalty and leaping back again into his seat "right deliverly" without touching the stirrup or receiving any assistance, although loaded with complete armour, "incontinent they rushit togidder with new spears the second time, with burning ire to conqness (acquire) honour. But in the third rink" (of course, having exchanged their spears for stronger ones) "Lord Welles was dooung (struck) out of the saddle with sic violence that he fell to the ground, with great displeasure of Englishmen."

Sir David then himself dismounted and they commenced a desperate foot-combat with their daggers, which ended in the total discomfiture of Lord Welles; for Sir David, fastening his dagger between the joints of his antagonist's armour, lifted him off his feet and hurled him to the ground where he sat at his mercy.

King Richard, who had seen the whole affair, called out to the victor,

"Lyndyssay, cousin, good, Lyndyssay!\*\*\*  
Do furth that thou should do this day"--

meaning that, if he wished to push the matter to extremity, as the laws of these combats *a' l'oultance* permitted, no one should hinder him.

It was then that the victorious knight displayed the grace, sweetness and courtesy of his chivalry, for, raising his foe and taking him kindly by the hand, he led him beneath the ladies' gallery and "presented him to the Queen as his gift, wishing, like a true knight, that mercy should proceed from woman." The Queen thanked him and then gave liberty to Lord Welles. Sir David supported him in the lists till a leech arrived, "tenderly embracing him that the people might understand he fought na hatrent, allanerly (solely) for the gloir of victory ." He visited him afterwards every day till he recovered from the effects of his fall. Such was:

"The Lyndyssay, That in his deed all courteous wes!"

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\* "The attaint" consisted of striking the helmet and shield of one's antagonist firmly and strongly, with the lance held in a direct line, so that the weapon might break unless the champion was overthrown.

\*\* The epithet "cousin" was not given in courtesy in those days, but only in cases of actual kindred. Lord Lindsay states that he did not, however, know what relationship existed between Sir David and Richard Plantagenet.

[This account of the valiant and chivalrous first Earl of Crawford was taken from Lives Of The Lindsays by Lord Lindsay, Volume 1, Chapter III, published by John Murray, Albemarle Street, London, 1849]

Written by Marty Thurmond, FSA Scot. Originally published in *The Clan Lindsay Recorder*, Volume XXV, Number 1, Spring 2000-Marty Thurmond, Editor. [Author's note: I have taken the liberty of substituting contemporary words for some of the archaic words and phrases and excerpted only those passages relating to the first Earl and his encounters with Lord Welles.]

## SEPTS

I am often asked by members and prospective members of the various septs how their family is connected to the Lindsays. Other members of Council must also get asked this question as two of them have repeatedly asked me to do an article on the subject. My answer, then and now, is that I do not have enough information to do an article. So I am giving you what little I do have and hope that some of you will have more information to share with me for our Archives.

The reason that our information is so lacking is directly related to the founding of this organization. Our founder, Mr. William S. Lindsay, and his wife, Kate, were life members of the Clan Lindsay Society in Scotland. As Registrar for the Grandfather Mountain Games, they came into contact with many Lindsays, whom they encouraged to join the Society. Some were not eligible, as their connection was too remote.

People of other names (Byers, Cobb, Crawford, etc.) came up to them with a copy of Scots Kith and Kin, which they had just purchased at the games. This book indicated that they were septs of Clan Lindsay. This group of people, both Lindsays and the "septs", formed a group and began talking about aligning with the Society as an American Branch.

Mr. Lindsay wrote to Lord Crawford, father of the present Earl, and to Lord Lyon King of Arms, Scotland. The idea was presented to the Society and was voted down. This was backed up by Lord Lyon. The reason for this is that we wanted less stringent rules for membership. The Society requires that one's grandparent be a Lindsay. This would eliminate many of our Lindsay members today and all of the septs. Lord Crawford, the Society and Lord Lyon all agree that Clan Lindsay has no septs.

Mr. Lindsay and his group decided to form their own organization and call it Clan Lindsay Association, USA. This organization, as we know it today, has much more lenient requirements for membership and, of course, recognizes the septs as listed in Scots Kith and Kin. It is my good fortune to be a member of both organizations and I believe that they both serve, to good purpose, their membership where they exist.

The following is the only information I can find in the Archives that shows an association of Affleck and the septs with the Lindsays.

**Affleck:** This surname is of twofold origin: (1) from the barony of Auchinleck in Ayrshire, and (2) from Affleck in Angus. These Angus Afflecks were hereditary armour bearers to the Earls of Crawford. (This information is from Black: Surnames of Scotland and has been verified by Lord Lyon.)

**Byres, Byers, Buyers:** These names are derived from the old barony of Byres in East Lothian. For centuries, the barony was the property of the family of Lindsay and gave title to Lindsay of Byres. (Black: Surnames of Scotland)

**Cobb:** There were 14 families of this name in Brechin in the 1600s. (Brechin is only about 10 miles from Edzell

Castle). Some of this name gave name to Cobbisland in Brechin. Some say this name is a diminutive of Jacob, but there was also a first name "Cobba". (Black: Surnames of Scotland)

**Crawford:** *One* of the origins of the name came from the mountain territory of Crawford, later the barony of Crawford. Lindsays acquired this territory in the 12th century. In 1398, when they received an Earldom, they took the title of Earl of Crawford, though they had recently sold these land to the Douglasses for land in Angus. (Land of the Lindsays. Clan Lindsay Society Newsletter.) Much is written in Black's, Cantlie's and Fenwick's books about the Crawford name, but none show an association with the Lindsays.

**Deuchar, Deuchars:** The name is of territorial origin from the lands of Deuchar in the lordship of Fern or Fearn in Angus. They were considered to be one of the oldest families in the district and are said to have come into possession of the land of Deuchar c. 1369. The family were evidently vassals of the Lindsays at that period. Their connection with the land ceased in 1819 when the lands were sold and the late owner left Scotland for the colonies. (Black: Surnames of Scotland)

**Downie, Downey:** The name is of territorial origin for the old barony of Duny or Downie in 1331 in Angus. Jervise's suggestion that the Downies were probably vassals of some lord, as the name is so rarely found in the earlier records, is probably correct. (Black: Surnames of Scotland)

**Fotheringham:** This family is from the parish of Inverarity in Angus, a race that settled early in the province and are said to have descended from Henty de Fedringhay who received the lands of Balewny, near Dundee, from Robert II previous to 1377. (Black: Surnames of Scotland)

**Rhind, Rhynd, Rind:** From the parish of Rhynd in Perthshire. Although this family is now somewhat rare in Angus, it is of considerable antiquity in that county. (Black: Surnames of Scotland)

**Summers:** Listed in Black's under Symmers. An old Angus family of whom nothing much is known. They possessed Balzordie in 1450. In 1682 Symmers of Balzordie were described as "ane ancient familie and chief of the name" until about the middle of the eighteenth century when the male branch failed.

Please note that there is more information on some of the families in our Archives. For our purposes here, I have only used that which shows an association with the Lindsays. If any of you have further documented materials on the subject, I hope you will share it with me for placement in our Archives.

Written by:  
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### Did You Know?

It's fun to surf in a kilt!

Try it out on this: [www.clanlindsayusa.org](http://www.clanlindsayusa.org)



