

Message to Bell Family Members and Relations

January 3, 2019

Over the past many years, the Bell Family members have met and discussed the path forward to establish formal recognition for us. We have hosted clan tents, distributed newsletters, established web sites, as well as Facebook sites. Mr. David E. Bell submitted a Bell Family petition to Lord Lyon in 2018. This petition is to gain formal recognition for a Chief of Name and Arms by the Lord Lyon King of Arms, Scotland's chief herald. Subsequently, Mrs. Elizabeth Roads, Snawdoun Herald of Arms was assigned by Lord Lyon as the Supervising Officer for our case.

As we move forward to gain formal recognition of the clan and ultimately have a chief, we must follow the Court of the Lord Lyon's legal procedures for this process. This will not be an easy task, and we will need to set expectations based upon the complexity of process. Our challenge is to find a Representer(s) suitable to the Court and suitable to the family; preferably residing in Scotland. We are assembling a family convention (also known as Derbhfine) under the Court's supervision. The primary goal of this Derbhfine is to nominate a Representer (also known as a Clan Commander) and to gain the Court's recognition of that person. Why a Commander?

Since the Bell family has had no chief or leader since at least the early 17th century, and it is not known if anyone can now prove that they are the most senior member of a Bell family with a claim to be chief of the Bell name. In the absence of such a person, it would benefit Bells if they had a Commander who would lead the clan for the and next five to twenty years while a suitable person to be chief is identified or a descendant of the principal family of the name is able to gather proof of their descent. It has been recommended to our family that selecting a Clan Commander and gaining recognition of our family by the Court of the Lord Lyon will allow us to be represented within the organization while a detailed search is conducted for the Clan Bell Chieftain. It takes a lot of time and resources to provide supporting evidence to the Court of the Lord Lyon for said claim.

We have developed a survey that is being distributed on showing support for this effort, and contacts have been established with our international kinfolk.

The Bell Derbhfine is scheduled for June 15 and 16, 2019 in Gretna Green, Scotland. I would request for a show of support from as many Bell Family members and relatives. **Please complete the survey** included on the website, distributed newsletters, Facebook site or email. If you have previously done so there is no need to repeat submittal. A detailed schedule of events will be sent prior to 30 days before the convention. I would also like to know if you and other family members will be attending the Derbhfine. I have been concentrating on the actual convention but if there is desire to complete tours, events, etc. while in the area, I have been provided some contacts that I can pass on for your convenience.

If you have any questions about the family convention, please feel free to contact me at: clanbellcolorado@aol.com. I look forward to working with all of you in the historic effort.

In kinship;

Robert Bell