

Introduction of the Bell Family Convention (Derbhfine) of 2019

Many Bell family members have expressed the desire to restore the Bell family to our rightful place within the Scottish family network and the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs. Those of us who want to see this goal achieved have initiated the process necessary to accomplish it. In support of this effort, a survey has been developed for all those of the Bell name or who have hereditary connections to the Bell family. This survey is to understand the depth of support, within the world-wide network of Bells, for accomplishing said goal. It will help demonstrate, we believe, there is a world-wide desire to restore the Bell family to its rightful place within the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs.

What is the Proposed Plan Forward for the Bell Family Convention?

The path that we are recommending is to hold a Bell Family Convention (or Derbhfine) in Scotland during the summer of 2019. The Derbhfine will be held in the Borders area (most likely Dumfries) of Scotland; location has not been settled at this time. The family convention would be for one or two days with the intent to select a proposed leader to the Court of the Lord Lyon. After much consideration, the proposal for the Derbhfine is to select a Clan Commander to lead the Clan as a search is completed by the Bell Family to identify and select a candidate Clan Bell Chief. The Commander will be selected to serve a term of 5 years which can be extended if necessary.

The purpose behind the appointment of a commander is for that person to provide a focus to take the family forward and to encourage any potential genealogical chief to gather the evidence needed to take their case before the Lord Lyon. A commander acts as head of the family and would need to be prepared to be more than a figure head. He or she would be expected, in this position, to attend gatherings of the wider family and to represent the name at Highland games and other events. He or she would probably be expected by the family to travel abroad to represent the name overseas. In general, it is preferable if the first commander is based in Scotland, but it might be that an outstanding candidate to lead the family may be based elsewhere.

Request to All Whom Are Interested in Seeing This Process Completed

Please complete and send the survey to Robert Bell (contact information is included in the survey). Also, if you are interested in attending the Derbhfine and/or being considered for the Clan Bell Commander position please notify Mr. Bell to be placed on the list of attendees and/or potential candidates for the commander position. Those attendees/candidates will be contacted by Mr. Bell with all pertinent data, updates, requirements, etc.

One other note, if you know of other Bell family members or relations please forward this document on to them and encourage their participation.

Survey Request Regarding the Clan Bell, also known as the Scottish Bell family

Clan Bell, also known as the Scottish Bell family, has not had a Clan Chief or Commander since the 17th century, and therefore is not part of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs. There is an opportunity now to work with the Court of the Lord Lyon to initiate that process by first establishing a Clan Commander and ultimately selecting a Clan Chief. Please complete the survey below and give us your thoughts.

Your Name: _____ Country of Residence: _____

Survey Questions on a Clan Commander for Bell Family and Related Families:

- 1) Would you be in favor of going forward to identify and select a Clan Commander, and ultimately a Clan Chief for Clan Bell, also known as the Scottish Bell family, and therefore be recognized by the Court of the Lord Lyons?
 - a. Yes _____ No _____
- 2) Do you believe that Clan Bell should be recognized as part of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs (in the same manner as Clan Buchanan, Clan Hay, Clan Scott, etc.) by the Court of the Lord Lyon?
 - a. Yes _____ No _____
- 3) If you answered Yes to question 2, would you like to see a Derbhfine, or family convention, held in Scotland to nominate a leader of Clan Bell to be presented for recognition by the Court of Lord Lyon during the year 2019?
 - a. Yes _____ No _____
- 4) If you answered Yes to question 3, would you like to attend the Derbhfine to be an active member of this family convention and assist in selecting our candidate to the Court of the Lord Lyon for recognition?
 - a. Yes _____ No _____
- 5) If you answered Yes to question 4, would you be interested in being considered for the leadership position of Clan Commander?
 - a. Yes _____ No _____
- 6) If you answered Yes to question 3, would you be willing to assist in its preparation (either financially and/or through volunteer committee work)?
 - a. Yes _____ No _____

Please send your completed survey, by email or regular mail, to:

Robert Bell
3228 Oak Leaf Place
Highlands Ranch, Colorado 80129 USA
Email: clanbellcolorado@aol.com

Thank you for your time and consideration of this survey request.