



B. R. Forbes

Historian & Storyteller Committed to Illuminating Scotland's Rich Past and the People Who Shaped It

B. R. Forbes—known as Bart—is a historian and storyteller committed to illuminating Scotland's rich, intricate past — not through inherited legend, but through the documented record and the living memory of the people who carried it forward.

For more than a decade, his research has centered on Clan Forbes, traced across five centuries of upheaval: the medieval struggle for independence, the convulsions of the Reformation, the rise and fall of a royal dynasty, and the divided loyalties of the last Jacobite rebellion. From there, his research follows that family's worldwide diaspora drawing throughout on charters, archival records, correspondence, and memoirs rather than the romanticized narratives that have long dominated popular clan history.

A member of his family's heritage society since 1987, Forbes has served as its president since 2018 — a role that has given him direct, sustained access to the family's own historians and chiefs. He works closely with the clan's traditional oral historian, a living keeper of stories and genealogy passed down across generations, as well as with the family's hereditary titleholders, weighing their recollections against the archival record with equal care for both.

For six years, Forbes served as Communications Chairman of the Council of Scottish Clans and Associations (COSCA), the trade association for Scottish heritage societies in the United States. He regularly corresponded with societies, surveyed their needs, and reported on their activities. In 2014, he served as a credentialed observer for the Scottish Independence Referendum.

Bart's path to becoming a historian and storyteller was itself shaped by a long career translating complex material for public audiences — a skill now visible in every chapter he writes.

For seventeen years (2003–2020), he worked at the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), as a federal grant program officer. Other NTIA roles included Public Affairs Specialist and Telecommunications Policy Analyst. In his federal role, he served as a FEMA Individual Assistance Specialist and deployed to Texas communities after Hurricane Harvey (2017) and Hurricanes Katrina (2005). Bart's civic commitments extended to emergency service closer to home: from 2009 to 2018, he served as an Operations/Training NCO with the Virginia Defense Force (state guard), received certification as FEMA Incident Command System instructor, and he deployed three times to the Virginia Emergency Operations Center during state emergencies. Earlier still, Bart spent more than a decade and a half in nonprofit communications and public radio/TV fundraising and marketing at WGBH (Boston), WMFE (Orlando), WAMU-FM (Washington, D.C.), and Pacifica-affiliated KPFT-FM (Houston).

While engaged in the past, Forbes is as surely a multifaceted man of the present. He has earned a black belt in Tukong Moosul (combat martial arts), a black belt in Tae Kwon Do, a blue belt in Judo, a third-place bronze medal in a state-wide judo competition, and a first-place buckle for rodeo steer wrestling. He retired from the federal government in 2020 and resides with his husband Antonio Uribe Jr. in Surfside Beach, Texas.