

ROBERTSON'S RANT

The Newsletter of the Clan Donnachaidh Society—Mid-Atlantic Branch



VIRGINIA SCOTTISH GAMES REPORT

By Jim Fargo

My first festival attendance of 2021 was held this past Labor Day weekend. In a normal year, this would be the beginning of our Branch's second half of the Games Season. This past twenty-two months has not been normal for the Scottish-American community. The last festival I attended was the Richmond festival in October 2019. Concerned about the condition of the field as Hurricane Ida had earlier dumped two days of rain in the area, **Robert Knight** and I were pleased to arrive at a fairly dry field at Great Meadows on Saturday morning September 4th for the 47th annual Virginia Scottish Games.

As in past years, we were situated next to our House of Gordon cousins at the usual end of our clan row with a combined four-tent frontage. The entertainment tent was about 50 feet from the clan site and was an ideal site for both listening to the celtic music and watching the athletic competitions.

After setting up our two clan tents on a beautiful sunny morning and arranging flags and tables, we were joined by **Evan Duncan** and **John Robertson** to help us get ready for the 9:00am opening of the games. As the athletic events began, we were alerted to a Duncan tartan kilt on the field and were soon joined by **Justin Pearce** and two older generations of his family. Justin competed in all the Saturday events and won the Braemar Stone competition! Our Open Second Place fiddling trophy in memory of Ronald Duncan Gonnella was not won this year as there was only one Open competitor.

Sunday morning's weather was just the opposite of Saturday, with occasional drizzle and several heavier rains throughout the day. Visitor attendance was down from Saturday but our President **Sam Kistler** was able to attend and help us greet clanfolk and visitors as they arrived. Also want to thank **Steve Hoffman** and his girlfriend **Chris**, **Harry Robertson**, **Jerry Vandenberg** and all the regulars from other clans who stopped by to visit with us over both days.

As usual we combined our Donnachaidh Diner with the Gordon Grill and everyone in both clans and our guests were well fed. My thanks to everyone for bringing victuals and drinks to support our Diner this year and to **Dave** and **Lois Todd** for hosting the Gordon Grill and cooking our breakfasts and lunches both days.

We look forward to having a "normal" games season next year and hope to see everyone at the 48th Virginia Scottish Games at Great Meadows on September 3-4, 2022.

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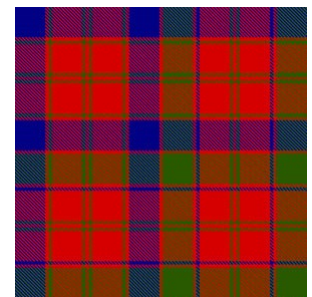
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Left to right: Chris, Steve Hoffman, Sam Kistler, Evan Duncan, and Jim Fargo at the Virginia Scottish Games. Photo courtesy of Sam Kistler.

COVENANTER GAMES REPORT

By Norman Dunkinson

The 8th Annual Covenanter Scottish Festival was held on Saturday, September 11th, on the site of the Octorara Covenanter Church in Quarryville, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. I arrived around 8:00am, and Sam Kistler, after an enjoyable drive through the rolling hills of south-central Pennsylvania, arrived shortly thereafter. Our tent, erected in short order, served as the buffer between Clans Donald and Campbell.

As this was the 20th anniversary of 9/11, the day started with the clans and the Washington Memorial Pipe Band marching to the location of the 9/11 remembrance and memorial to the veterans of World War II interred at the church – the oldest Covenanter church in North America, dating back to 1754. We marched again for the opening ceremonies later in the morning, and our “Fierce When Roused” war cry was easily the loudest of the bunch!

Our tent was positioned across from the highland athletic field, where we had a good view of the men’s and women’s events throughout the day. We were pleased to welcome former member **Doug Senn** and his wife and returning member **Robert McInroy**. We enjoyed visiting with our neighboring clans throughout the day as well, and I was

COVENANTER GAMES REPORT (CONTINUED)

happy to accept the gift of a Clan Campbell t-shirt from fellow convener Nancy Campbell (my Campbell ancestor, Robert Campbell, took a musket ball in the leg at the Battle of Long Island in 1776).

The well-known singer and guitarist Charlie Zahm visited with us briefly in the afternoon and thanked us for coming out. We were also visited by a festival organizer, and Sam and I had the opportunity to provide feedback on how to make this event even better next year. While the event has many positive qualities, we shared that the primary opportunity was to attract more merchandise vendors (there were only 2).

Clans in attendance at this game, in addition to Donnachaidh, Donald, and Campbell included Bell, Bruce, Fergusson, Gregor, Irwin, Lockhart, MacAlister, MacDougall, MacLean, Montgomery, and Nesbitt. A nice turnout for one of the first games after the COVID-19 hiatus!

CEUD MILE FAILTE—100,000 WELCOMES!

We'd like to welcome the following new and returning members who joined or renewed since the last report:

Eileen Deslauriers

Trudy Hughart

Hugh Hughes

Robert McInroy

Joan Ort

Ripley Williams



Left to right: Norman Dunkinson and Sam Kistler at the Covenanter Games. Photo courtesy of Sam Kistler.

ROBERTSON'S RANT**SERGEANT DAVID ROBERTSON OF THE 92ND FOOT—1801**

By James E. Fargo, FSA Scot

One of the perks of owning a used book store is finding out-of-print books. I recently came across a copy of "Soldiers at War", edited by Jon E. Lewis, which was published in the UK in 2001 by Constable and Robinson Ltd. This book provides fourteen firsthand accounts of warfare during the Age of Napoleon from the memoirs of the individual soldier. The second memoir (pp. 33-63) is entitled "A Foot Soldier in Egypt, 1801" and recounts the service of Sergeant David Robertson during this campaign. It was edited from his "The Journal of Sergeant D. Robertson" published in 1842.

Born in 1777, Robertson began his military career as a member of the volunteer force raised by the Duke of Atholl in 1797. This fencible regiment was assigned to home guard duties. By his own admission, he found the duties lacking in "bustle and variety" and enlisted in the Caithness Highlanders for service in Northern Ireland. At the beginning of 1800, an offer was made to these fencible regiments to enter regiments of the line. Robertson transferred to the 92nd Highlanders and it was with the 92nd that he arrived in Egypt in 1801.

The French had arrived in Egypt in 1798 and hoped to disrupt England's commerce with Egypt and threaten England's interests in India. It was a sideshow to the major Napoleonic campaigns. For England, the need to protect the empire's trade routes resulted in the sailing of Sir Ralph Abercromby and his 18,000 man army to Egypt to find and destroy the French 'Armee d'Orient'. The army arrived in Aboukir Bay along the Egyptian coast on March 1, 1801. On the morning of March 8th, troops disembarked for shore under heavy French fire from cannon and infantry. Gaining the shore, the French were pushed back and a landing secured. That evening, the cavalry came ashore and the British advance began the following morning.

The 92nd, commanded by Lt. Col. Erskine and a small body of dragoons advanced in pursuit of the retreating French troops who pulled back to the fort of Aboukir to withstand a siege. On the morning of March 12th, the 90th and 92nd regiments advanced as rifle brigades with the 90th on the right (1,000 strong) and the 92nd on the left (550 strong). The French cavalry attacked from the right and were beaten off with the 90th suffering about 400 killed and wounded and the 92nd losing about 200. The following 17th and 79th regiments moved up and continued the advance driving the French in a slow retreat back to their earth works in front of the city of Alexandria. From March 13th to the 20th, the regiments were engaged in building entrenchments for defense from the French cavalry. During the construction of these defenses, the local people came to sell vegetables and sheep to the army. Robertson wrote that "We bought their sheep for a half a dollar each, being about 2 shillings 3 pence English money. Ostriches were also brought to the market, and fetched a dollar each, these being principally bought by the Highland soldiers, for the use of the feathers in decorating their bonnets". At this time, the 92nd regiment numbered no more than 250 men fit for service.

On the morning of the March 22nd, 12,000 French troops secretly filed out of their fortifications and launched an attack on the British positions. Called "The Night Battle of Aboukir", this four hour battle cost the British 1,376 casualties and reduced Robertson's own regiment to only 100 men fit for duty. French losses were upwards of 3,000 killed and wounded. The British campaign culminated in the capitulation of the city of Alexandria on August 20, 1801.

SERGEANT DAVID ROBERTSON OF THE 92ND FOOT—1801 (CONTINUED)

Thereafter, Robertson saw service in the Walcheren, Danish, Peninsular and Waterloo campaigns. Robertson survived over fifteen years of conflict. I believe one of the reasons for this was because he was as a shoemaker before entering the army. Much of the army's life revolved around marching from place to place. Anyone who could repair shoes was a valuable member of the regiment who probably spent most of his time in camp repairing boots for his comrades. Following twenty-one years of faithful service, Sergeant Robertson was discharged with a pension of one shilling, ten pence a month on June 22, 1818.

NIGEL W. DUNCAN (1899-1987)

By James E. Fargo, FSA Scot

Nigel William Duncan became a cadet at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst (1918-1919) and was commissioned into the Black Watch. Duncan transferred from the Black Watch and joined the Royal Tank Corps (RTC) in 1920. He served in Egypt then into Palestine with the Armoured Car Bodyguard to Lawrence of Arabia. After the war he served in Northern Ireland (1924-1926) then served as Adjutant of the Royal Tank Corps Depot at Bovington Camp from 1926 until 1931. Duncan was stationed to Delhi, India with the 8th Armoured Car Company, RTC from 1931-1932 then returned to England to attend Staff College and served as Brigade Major with the 1st Tank Brigade from 1938-1940.

In 1943 he was appointed Commander of the 30th Armoured Brigade in the 79th Armoured Division. His command participated in many actions in Western Europe prior to the Allies assault on Le Havre and the Rhine Crossing. His bold and inspiring leadership was recognized in 1945 by the award of the Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire and the Distinguished Service Order. In 1946 Duncan commanded the 2nd Armoured Brigade. In 1947 he was Commandant of the Royal Armoured Corps Centre. From 1949 until his retirement in 1952, he was director of Royal Armoured Corps, War Office.

Sir Nigel Duncan retired as a Major-General and later became the Curator of the Tank Museum from 1964-1967. In 1972, his book on the "79th Armoured Division (Hobo's Funnies)" was published. It provides a history of the pre-war training of the Division by Brigadier Percy "Hobo" Hobart and his insistence on training tank crews for massed maneuvers at speed, night exercises and movements through urban areas which proved to be essential during World War II.

Major General Nigel Duncan died in 1987.

References:

Baynes, John, "Soldiers of Scotland", Brassey's Defence Publishers, Exeter, 1988, p. 119.

Multiple Wikipedia searches.

SCOTS HUMOR

A portly older Englishman on vacation comes into the Pitlochry fitness center. Although not in the best of shape, he asked young Hamish, the fitness instructor, "which machine should I use to impress that beautiful girl over there?"

Hamish replied, "Auch, sir, I'd suggest the ATM outside."

ROBERTSON'S RANT

BOOK REVIEW—WAVERLY

By James E. Fargo, FSA Scot

The novel 'Waverley,' was the first in a series of seventeen historical fiction novels written by Sir Walter Scott. Because Scott did not publicly acknowledge his authorship until 1827, the series became known as the 'Waverley Novels' and were identified as "by the author of Waverley." First published on July 7, 1814, as a three volume set, subsequent novels were popular and widely read for nearly a century throughout Europe.

The title character, Edward Waverley, is an English gentleman who is serving as an officer in the English army prior to the Jacobite Rising of 1745. As circumstances change, he subsequently 'takes the plaid' and joins the Jacobite army under the tutelage of Baron Bradwardine and his Jacobite friends. Charged with treason by the English for desertion, the story covers his travels in the highlands, his return to Edinburgh with highland friends and joins the Jacobite army to participate in the battle of Prestonpans against General Cope's army.

The character of the Baron Bradwardine is reputed to have been based on Alexander Robertson of Struan, our 13th chief. In chapter 43, Bradwardine takes our hero to a ball at Holyrood House in Edinburgh dressed in formal highland garb to meet his Royal Highness Prince Charles and quotes the following verse which Alexander, our Poet Chief, had thus elegantly rendered:

For cruel love has gartan'd low my leg,
And clad my hurdies in a philabeg.

After Culloden, Waverley suffers the trials and tribulations of trying to avoid English troops looking to arrest or kill surviving remnants of the Jacobite army

With the help of a family friend, Colonel Talbot, the charges of treason against Waverley for being a Jacobite rebel are dropped and his English inheritance restored. After being issued an English passport allowing him to travel in Scotland, our hero (in Chapter 64) visits the forfeited ruined estate of Bradwardine looking for his lady love and her father. The baron is in hiding from the English troops quartered in the vicinity. Waverley is secretly led to the old Baron's hiding place and again the Baron quotes a verse written by Struan Robertson while discussing the fate of a mutual friend:

A fiery eller-cap, a fractious chiel,
As het as ginger, and as stieve as steel.

In a truly romantic ending, Waverley journeys back to Scotland to find his true love. Returning to the Bradwardine estate with Rose he learns that Colonel Talbot has come to his aid once again and purchased the Baron's forfeited estate. With ownership transferred to our hero they live happily ever after.

Postscript: Scott wrote three major novels on Scotland's Jacobite past. "Rob Roy" on the 1715 rising was the second (1817), followed by 'Redgauntlet' (1824) on a fictitious 1765 third rebellion.

References:

Scott, Sir Walter, "Waverley", pp. 332, 441.

Multiple Wikipedia searches.

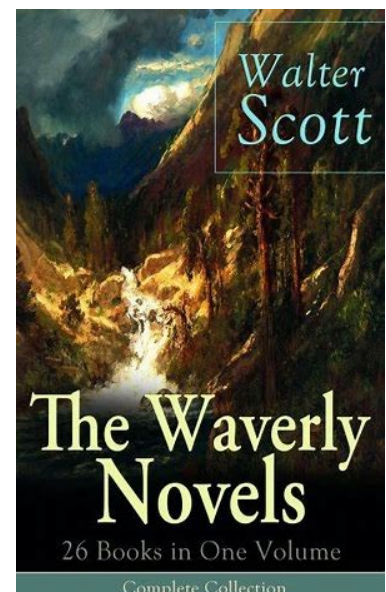


Image from media.readfy.com.

SERGEANT DAVID ROBERTSON—1815

By James E. Fargo, FSA Scot

On June 16, 1815 General Picton's division of the British army arrived at the village crossroads of Quatre Bras to support their Dutch-Belgian allies against the French 2nd Corps under General Ney. The 92nd Gordon Highlanders were part of this 8,000 man division. Fighting continued all afternoon and the allied army was bloodied by repeated attacks. Around 6pm Ney was unsatisfied and ordered the French cavalry to charge the British infantry line. The infantry formed squares, stood fast and poured volley after volley into the French Lancers and Cuirassiers swarming around them. Broken, the French fell back and Wellington ordered a general advance and won the field, although the battle was really a draw. That evening, the Gordon Highlanders and other allied units retrieved their wounded and buried their dead.

That same day at Ligny, Marshall Blucher and his Prussians had been badly mauled by the French. After learning the bad news, the next day Wellington ordered a withdrawal back to a ridge near the village of Waterloo. That Saturday was a day spent in regrouping and bringing up fresh allied troops to new defensive positions.

Sunday morning, June 18, began with artillery barrages from both sides. The French 1st Corps of 16,000 men went forward in four dense phalanxes, 200 men wide and 24 to 27 men deep. They were met by the continuous volley fire and sharp bayonets of Sir Denis Pack's brigade (Gordons, Black Watch and the 44th) which had been reduced to 1,400 by the fighting at Quatre Bras. Lord Uxbridge ordered the advance of Union and Household Brigades of heavy cavalry to counter a French Cuirassiers attack. The Gordons opened their ranks as the Scots Greys rode through to attack the French cavalry to the cheers of the Gordons. Sergeant David Robertson of the Gordons reported that "the sounds of British swords on French breastplates reminded him of a thousand coppersmiths at work". By 3pm, d'Erlon's French corps was defeated.

Fighting continued all along the lines back and forth with little gained. In the early evening Napoleon ordered the legendary Imperial Guard to advance on Wellington's position. They were met by the 1st Foot Guards and the long line of 1,500 British muskets fired volley after volley into the French phalanx. As the Imperial Guard fell back, Sergeant Robertson of the Gordons was told by a Scottish skirmisher that "something extraordinary" was going on in the French ranks.

Due to the loss of officers in the Gordons, Sergeant Robertson trained a telescope on the French lines only to see what appeared to be two groups of blue-clad troops on the French right firing at each other. Just then an aide-de-camp from Wellington galloped up to him with the welcome news. The Prussians under Marshal Blucher had finally arrived.

Dirty and disheveled, Robertson later commented "Never was reprieve more welcomed to a death-doomed criminal." Once Wellington realized that the Prussians were on the field, he began waving his hat which was the prearranged signal for a general advance from all units toward the French lines. Waterloo was won.

References:

Longford, Elizabeth, "Wellington – The Years of the Sword", Harper & Row, 1969, pp. 432,463,479.

Niderost, Eric, "Scottish Highlanders at Waterloo", WarfareHistoryNetwork.com, November 26, 2018.

Games & Events News

The **Central Virginia Scottish Games** are cancelled for 2021.

The **Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk** is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, 12/03/21, "pending favorable public health conditions."

ROBERTSON'S RANT

HERBERT CECIL DUNCAN (1895-1942)

By James E. Fargo, FSA Scot

Herbert Cecil Duncan was born on August 19, 1895. He was commissioned as a temporary second lieutenant in the Seaforth Highlanders in 1914. Duncan received a permanent commission in the Indian Army in 1918 and served with the 13th Frontier Force Rifles until 1931 when he was attached to the India General Staff.

Duncan commanded the 45th Indian Infantry Brigade (June 1941- January 1942) during the Battle of Malaya prior to the fall of Singapore in February 1942 to the Japanese. At the time the British stronghold of Singapore was known as the "Gibraltar of the East". The battle at Muar Ferry Crossing (January 14-22, 1942) was the last major Allied battle against the Japanese Imperial Guards Division before the loss of Singapore. Australian, British Indian and British forces held defensive positions at the River Muar and the Gemensah Bridge. Out-manned (8,000 Japanese vs. 4,000 allied) and with little air cover (400 aircraft vs. 60 planes) the Allied defense was a complete failure which resulted in the near-annihilation of the 45th Indian Infantry Brigade and heavy casualties (3,100 killed) for the two attached Australian infantry battalions.

Brigadier Duncan was at Brigade Headquarters when a Japanese air attack destroyed it, killing all the staff officers and concussed Duncan (one of only two survivors of the air raid). With Australian support, the 45th Indian Brigade was ordered to counterattack the Japanese in January 17th. This too, proved unsuccessful. Duncan, who had now recovered from his concussion, was in charge of the rear guard and was killed while leading a successful bayonet charge on January 20th to recover lost vehicles for the retreat. With most of its officers killed or wounded, the young and inexperienced 45th Indian Brigade had ceased to exist as a formation.

Brigadier Duncan is buried in the Kranji War Cemetery in Singapore.

References:

Multiple Wikipedia searches.



Norman Dunkinson at the Covenanter Games. Photo by Sam Kistler.

WITCH HUNTS IN SCOTLAND

By James E. Fargo, FSA Scot

Following the Reformation in Scotland, the Scottish Parliament during the reign of Mary Queen of Scots criminalized witchcraft and made it a capital offense in 1563. Nearly three decades passed before the first major panic arose in 1590. King James VI believed that he and his Danish bride, Princess Anne of Denmark, had been personally targeted by witches around Tantallon Castle in North Berwick, who conjured up dangerous storms to try and sink their ships during their 1589 voyages across the North Sea back and forth to Oslo.



“Visit to the Witch,” 1882, by Edward Frederick Brewtnall. Image from www.flickr.com.

Because King James VI had a superstitious dread of witchcraft, he was determined to discover whether black arts had been employed against him

and permitted witch trials to be held. Several of the putative witches were tortured and confessions extracted in 1591. An accused witch, Agnes Sampson, after being tortured, revealed that 200 witches had met in a kirk in the coastal town of North Berwick on Halloween night in 1590. The supposed leader of this congregation was James Stewart, Earl of Bothwell and Lord High Admiral of Scotland. In April 1591, he was arrested and imprisoned in Edinburgh Castle, but was able to escape in June. In December 1591 he attempted to capture King James at Holyrood Palace but failed and again managed to escape. He eventually managed to flee abroad in 1594.

During this timeframe, William (our 8th chief) died in 1588 without issue. His younger brother Donald became our 9th chief. Unfortunately, Donald did not have a crown charter for our clan lands as his brother William had alienated some of the estate by gifting it to James Menzies on his marriage to Menzies’ daughter. Since William had done this without the consent of the King, Donald’s rights to his estates were under forfeiture. On Donald’s death in May 1591, the chiefship went to his eldest son Robert (1580-1630) who was only eleven. The clan estates were not restored to Robert until 1600 by Crown Charter.

One of the many accused in 1591 was a maidservant named Geillis Duncan who lived in Tranent, East Lothian. She was accused by her employer, David Seton, after he observed her skill in curing the ill, which he deemed unnatural. As a deputy bailiff, he took charge of her examination and tortured her into making a confession in which she named several accomplices. Duncan later retracted her confession but she was convicted in the North Berwick trials anyway and executed along with many others. During this time, the preferred method of execution was first being strangled at the stake then burned.

[Continued on page 10.](#)

ROBERTSON'S RANT

WITCH HUNTS IN SCOTLAND (CONTINUED)

Six years later, another witch panic arose during the summer of 1597. To partly justify the series of nationwide trials that took place, King James VI published his treatise, 'Daemonologie'. It explained King James' theories of black magic and how the devil operated in the world. Witchcraft was a secret conspiracy of humans and demons to harm the faithful. The only hope of the faithful was to appeal to God and especially to the God-given powers of kings like James. It is believed that William Shakespeare borrowed from 'Daemonologie' as source material for 'MacBeth' which was first performed in 1606.

Later political events changed James's worldview of his role as a divinely ordained king. Once James succeeded Queen Elizabeth I in 1603 and became king of England as James I, he faced Catholic conspiracies against his rule and turned his attentions away from hunting witches.



"Walpurgisnacht," 1899, Franz Xaver Simm. Image from serialier.tumblr.com.

Most of the witch trials occurred in the lowland areas of Scotland, especially in Aberdeenshire. Kirk sessions were formed by local lairds and ministers to supervise the people and enforce religious uniformity in the parish. Kirk sessions could arrest suspects deemed to have unorthodox religious practices and then pass cases on to the local secular authorities for trial. Many cases involved women who were local healers and assisted in childbirths, yet if something went wrong they were accused. Other offenses concerned extramarital sex which may partly explain why so many female witches were accused of having sex with the devil.

Another nationwide witchcraft panic occurred in 1628-1631 linked to religious tensions in Germany unleashed during the Thirty Years' War. Numerous witch trials were held with subsequent executions. Additional witch hunt panics occurred in 1649-1650, and 1661-1662. These were an extension of the Protestant Reformation where parish ministers and government authorities sought to create a perfect state in which everyone worshipped correctly and all sin and ungodliness was punished.

The last witch to be burned in Perthshire, Kate McNiven, was a young nurse who served in the House of Inchbrakie near Crieff. She was accused by her employer, Patrick Graham of Inchbrakie, of turning into a bee and buzzing around his head. She is reputed to have cursed Graham and the village of Monzie before her death in 1715. This man was a distant cousin of our 13th chief as Alexander's grandmother was Margaret Graham of Inchbrakie.

The last burning of a convicted witch took place in Dornoch in 1727. In 1736, the British Parliament finally repealed the 1562 Witchcraft Act and made it a crime to accuse others of practicing witchcraft or having magical powers. Nearly 3,800 people had been publicly accused of witchcraft in Scotland. These witchcraft inquisitions would eventually claim over 2,500 hundred victims, most (about 85%) of whom were women.

References:

Goodare, Julian, "Devil's Conspiracy", *National Geographic History*, September/October, 2019, pp. 76-87.

Magnusson, Magnus, "Scotland, the Story of a Nation", Grove Press, New York, NY, 2000, pp. 393-396.

Robertson, James, "Chiefs of Clan Donnachaidh 1275-1749", Perth, 1929, p. 53.

Ross, David, "Scotland, History of a Nation", Lomond Books Ltd., New Lanark, 2004, pp. 169-170.

Multiple Wikipedia searches.

WITCH ADDENDA—SALEM

By Norman Dunkinson

My son Asher and I spent a few days in Massachusetts this past August. In keeping with the Halloween season and in follow-up to Jim's article *Witch Hunts in Scotland*, I thought I'd share a few photos from our visit to Salem.



At left is the Salem Witch Trials Memorial—20 stone benches, inscribed with the names and dates of death of the 20 victims of the 1692 trials, attached to a low stone wall. Below is the bench for Giles Corey, the only victim to be pressed to death.



The Salem Witch Museum is shown below.



At left is what is known as the Witch House. It was actually the home of Jonathan Corwin, one of the judges of the Salem Witch Trials.

At right is the Proctor's Ledge Memorial at the site of the actual hangings at the base of Gallow's Hill. Similar to the Witch Trials Memorial, there are blocks within the wall inscribed with the names of the 19 victims who died by hanging. Corey, who was pressed to death, is, of course, not represented here.

If you choose to visit Salem, note that, while well worth it, it is extremely "touristy." It was quite busy on the Thursday in August when we were there, so I would definitely recommend against a weekend or Halloween visit!

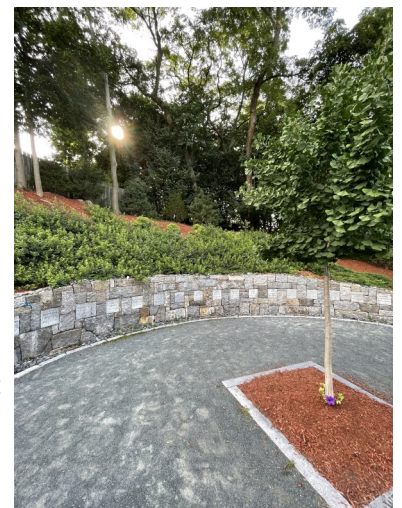




Image from www.pinterest.fr.

**CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY
MID-ATLANTIC BRANCH**

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The Clan Donnachaidh Society is a world-wide organization dedicated to the preservation of our Highland heritage. Membership is open to those persons bearing recognized sept surnames and their descendants and spouses.

Membership in the parent Clan Donnachaidh Society in Scotland includes a subscription to the Clan Donnachaidh Annual.

Membership in the Mid-Atlantic Branch of the Clan Donnachaidh Society includes a subscription to the Branch newsletter, Robertson's Rant, published quarterly and containing listings of Highland Games and Celtic Festivals throughout the Mid-Atlantic region, Game and Festival reports, historical and biographical articles, and news items of interest to Donnachaidhs everywhere. Membership also includes an open invitation to join your fellow society members at the Clan Donnachaidh Tent and Diner at numerous Games and Festivals, and at other activities including the annual Scottish Christmas Walk and Clan Donnachaidh luncheon in the Old Town section of Alexandria, Virginia, in early December.

Parent Society membership dues are \$25.00 per year (individual) and \$35.00 per year (family = two persons/same address). Mid-Atlantic Branch membership dues are \$20.00 per year (individual).



Left to right: Mary Alice Behe, Don Behe, Evan Duncan, Patrick Due, Sam Kistler, Heather Due, Laura Wyette, and Tom Due at the Ligonier Games. Photo courtesy of Sam Kistler.