

ROBERTSON'S RANT

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



SOUTHERN MARYLAND GAMES REPORT

by Jim Fargo

On Saturday, April 29th, the clan van returned to the Jefferson-Patterson Park in Saint Leonard, Maryland for the 43rd Southern Maryland Celtic Festival. **Robert Knight, son Andrew and I** soon had the van unloaded in our assigned spots. The clan tents were arranged in alphabetical order so our regular double tent layout between Clans Donald and Douglas was quickly set up. **President Sam** was first to arrive. After a slow start, clanfolk began arriving to join us for the day's festivities.

It eventually turned into a nice sunny "Scottish" day with the temperatures in the mid-60s after a drizzly three hour drive to get there. The overall games attendance was about what we expected – lots of people for the first DC-area Celtic event of 2023.

We welcomed a number of members and guests along with their families to the clan tent including **Alex Duncan; Evan Duncan; Steve Hoffman and family; the Katan (Reid) family** and many others who visited throughout the day.

Watching the highland games events were especially noteworthy and interesting as we again had two clansmen (**Justin Pearce and Charlie Kyle**) participating this year. In the open division, Justin took overall third place, while Charlie came in second place in the lightweight men's division. Well done lads!!

We barely made the clan parade again this year as we were busy chatting with our guests. We were alerted by the sound of the bagpipe band leading the other clans to the opening ceremonies. After the parade, we returned to our tents to socialize over a light lunch with various liquid refreshments. Later on, the knobby knees contest was held, and Robert Knight won the 60 and over age group. I arrived too late for the competition but received a participant medal just for showing up!

Chris Lindsay (Clan Lindsay convener) came by during the day for our usual clan rivalry. I even helped **Shawn Lindsay** with setting up their clan tent this year. Shawn also did well in the athletic competition, coming in fourth in the lightweight division. This year marks the 631st anniversary of our "Raid of Angus" in 1392! Also noteworthy is that on this date, April 29, 2023, the Stone of Scone

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Branch Officers

President:

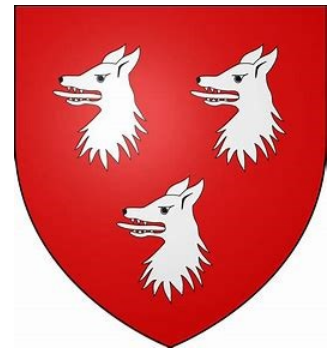
Sam Kistler

Vice President:

Tom Due

Secretary/Treasurer:

Norman Dunkinson



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SOUTHERN MARYLAND GAMES REPORT—CONTINUED

arrived in London from Edinburgh Castle on temporary loan for the upcoming coronation of King Charles III.

This is one of the best Celtic festivals in our region. Both Sam and I believe everyone had a good time and enjoyed themselves. We will be back with our double tent setup again next year on Saturday April 27, 2024. Hope you can join us there!

THOMAS REID (1710-1796)

By James E. Fargo, FSA Scot

Thomas Reid was born on April 26, 1710 in the manse at Strachen, Kincardineshire and was the son of Presbyterian minister Lewis and Margaret (Gregory) Reid. He was educated at home and in the local parish school. He graduated from Marischal College in 1726. He studied theology and in 1737 became a Presbyterian minister of the Church of Scotland. On August 12, 1740 he married his cousin Elizabeth Reid and they raised nine children of whom only their daughter Martha survived them. In October 1751 he was elected a regent at King's College in Aberdeen. In 1752 he gave up his ministry and became a full-time professor of philosophy at King's College. He was a contemporary of David Hume and William Robertson and played an integral role in the Scottish Enlightenment.

In 1753 Reid succeeded Adam Smith, the economist, as Professor of moral philosophy at Glasgow University and taught there until he retired in 1780.

Thomas Reid founded the Scottish School of Common Sense along with philosophers Dugald Stewart and Adam Fergusson and they developed a very non-sense philosophy -- that certain moral 'truths' were 'self evident', a common sense expression that should sound familiar to anyone who has read the Declaration of Independence.

Thomas Reid wrote and published three important works: "Inquiry into the Human Mind, on the Principles of Common Sense" (1764) written while at King's College; 'Essays on the Intellectual Powers of Man' (1785); and 'Essays on the Active Powers of Man' (1788). The two essays written during his retirement shaped the teaching of moral philosophy in America partly due to the influence of his disciple Dugald Stewart.

In 1783 Reid was a joint founder and Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (FRSE).

Reid died on October 7, 1796 in Glasgow after a brief illness. He was buried in Blackfriars Church.

References:

Henderson, Jan-Andrew, "The Emperor's New Kilt", Mainstream Publishing, Edinburgh, 2000, pp. 125-126.

Multiple Wikipedia searches.



Thomas Reid by Henry Raeburn. From <https://artuk.org>.

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:

Bruce F. Dell	Dan L. Edmunds	Jennifer Hadden	Gary Hogue
Pamela E. Neill	Charles Roberts	John W. Roberts	J. Mott Robertson Jr.
Kenneth W. Robertson	Matthew S. Robinson	Mike R. Sears	

SCOTS HUMOR

One Sunday morning after church, the minister confronted his tipsy church member. "Angus, whisky is your worst enemy."

Angus replied, "But didn't ye tell us last Sunday to love our enemies?"

"Aye," said the minister, "but I no said anything about swallowing them."

INVERVACK CASTLE

by James E. Fargo, FSA Scot

In 1437, our 4th chief, Robert Duncanson, captured two of the murderers (Sir Robert Graham and Walter Stewart, Earl of Atholl who was also an uncle of the king) of King James I on the Invervack property. The location was near a large rock overhang beside a small stream, now known as 'Allt Ghramaich' (Graham's Burn) which flows into Loch Bhac which then flows northward into the River Garry.

The estate of Invervack was included in the royal charter for the Free Barony of Struan granted in 1451 by King James II. It became the main residence for a succession of our clan chiefs from around 1513 when William, 6th chief, built a fortified tower house here. The move to Invervack came when our chiefs lost their island fortress in the northwest corner of Loch Tummel as a result of a dispute over land ownership with the Earl of Atholl who owned the wadset (mortgage) on the properties. The castle built at Invervack was destroyed by Cromwell's English troops in 1653 in retribution for our clan's support of King Charles I in Glencairn's Rising. Despite the burning, our 7th chief, Robert Robertson of Struan, continued to live on this estate until his death at Invervack on May 23, 1566.

We know that Alexander (12th chief) resided in the village of Kinloch Rannoch based on a letter written in 1667 and passed possession of Invervack to his uncle Donald Robertson who was his appointed guardian when he came of age in 1657. Donald was known as the "Tutor of Strowan" and led the clansmen in the campaigns of Montrose in support of King Charles I. This Donald (1641-1715) was born on the Drumachuine estate. He married Margaret (1663-unk) Robertson of Auchleeks.

One of Donald's sons, Robert (Rob Ban) Robertson of Invervack, passed away on October 21, 1777 at Milton of Invervack. He was a cousin of our 13th chief. He married Janet Cameran (1675-1770) and they had 11 children. Rob Ban's second son, Donald Robertson of Woodsheal (1718-1776) was the leader of our clansmen during the '45 and led the clan warriors at Culloden as a captain in the Atholl Brigade.

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INVERVACK CASTLE (CONTINUED)

Alexander (13th chief) lived at his 'Hermitage' when he returned from French exile in 1703 after the failed 1689 Rising. Alexander was able to lead his clansmen to Prestonpans in 1745 but was unable to participate in the battle due to his advanced age. The 'Hermitage' site is within the Dunalastair estate near where the clan-owned graveyard of five of our clan chiefs is located. This home, along with his residences at Kinloch Rannoch and Carie were burned by English troops in 1746 and Alexander died at a partially rebuilt Carie on the southern side of Loch Rannoch in 1749.

The Invervack estate was sold out of Struan's possession by public auction in May 1826 and was purchased by the Atholl Estates. The current farm house on the property was built in the 1850s.

Postscript: Invervack is situated on the south side of the River Garry and the A9 highway and north of Loch Tummel. It is situated 1 ½ miles northwest of our Clan Museum on the north side of the Garry at the Falls of Bruar. The Kirk at Struan is located about 2 miles west of Invervack.

References:

Fraser, Duncan, "Highland Perthshire", Standard Press, Montrose, 1969, p. 80.

Kerr, John, "Life in the Atholl Glens", Perth, 1993, p. 32.

Kerr, John, "Clan Annual, 1991", pp. 22-25.

Munro, Jean, "Clan Annual, 1964", pp.24-28.

Robertson, James, "Chiefs of Clan Donnachaidh, 1275-1749", 1929, p. 50.

Multiple Wikipedia searches.

WILLIAM ROBERTSON (C. 1656-1739)

By James E. Fargo, FSA Scot

For those of you that have plans to visit Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia, I recommend making Robertson's Windmill a designated stop during your visit. Our Chief, Gilbert Haldane Robertson of Struan did in September 1993 when he was the honored clan guest of the Williamsburg Scottish Festival held at the Williamsburg Winery.

William Robertson was born around 1656 in Edinburgh, Scotland and migrated to the American colonies. Robertson was clerk of the both the Colonial Council of State under Governor Spotswood and the General Assembly from 1702-1738 in Williamsburg. He was one of early Williamsburg's leading citizens. Robertson was an early director in laying out the boundaries and design of the new capital of Williamsburg and served as an alderman under the Charter of 1722. He was clerk and later trustee of the College of William and Mary.

In September 1716, Lieutenant Governor Spotswood led a party of government officials, Native Americans, soldiers and servants to the top ridge of the Blue Ridge Mountains at Swift Run Gap and saw the Shenandoah Valley spread out below. Robertson was one of those "Knights of the Horseshoe". On his death in 1739, he left an only daughter, Elizabeth, who married a Williamsburg merchant, John Lidderdale.

The current Robertson's Windmill was reconstructed on a site (North England Street) once owned by William Robertson early in the 18th century. In colonial times, colonists depended on mills to have their grain ground, from which they made their bread, which was a staple part of the Colonial diet. Town residents would buy their cornmeal or

WILLIAM ROBERTSON (CONTINUED)

wheat flour for cash, or barter with the miller if they brought their own grain to be ground or agreed to let the miller exact his time-honored one-sixth fee for his work.

Robertson's Mill was a post mill, meaning the whole superstructure revolved on top of a single huge post of hewed timber. The upper floor held the main shaft and millstones. The lower floor held the bolting or sifting apparatus. When operating, the mill required the miller's full attention, since a wind change would require the miller to rotate the mill's tailpole to face the wind.

There are several other sites with clan connections. One is the Nelson-Galt house which Robertson purchased and remodeled in 1709 and lived in. It is situated on the north side of Francis Street and was built in 1695. In addition, the George Reid House on the corner of Colonial Street and Duke of Gloucester Street was built around 1740 and passed to merchant George Reid on the death of its previous owner and served as his home from around 1790 until his death while he operated a storefront up the street nearer the Capitol.

References:

Official Guide to Colonial Williamsburg, 1998, pp. 32-32, 108-110.

Multiple Wikipedia searches.

JOSEPH REED (1741-1785)

By James E. Fargo, FSA Scot

Joseph Reed's parents were Andrew and Theodosia (Bowes) Reed. They had come to America from Northern Ireland and his merchant parents were living in Trenton, New Jersey when Joseph was born on August 27, 1741.

Graduating from the College of New Jersey at Princeton in 1757, young Reed studied law in Princeton under Richard Stockton (a later signer of the Declaration of Independence) until admission to the New Jersey bar in 1763. He then went to London for two years of additional schooling at the Middle Temple and returned to Trenton to practice law with side businesses in the iron trade and real estate. On the bankruptcy of his father's business in 1765 and the need to support his parents, Reed decided that he would do better in a larger city. Reed moved his law practice to Philadelphia and became a leading member of the local committee of correspondence. Reed returned to London in 1770 and married Esther de Berdt whom he had met on his earlier trip. They eventually had five children. His oldest son, Joseph Reed, was secretary to Benjamin Franklin while Franklin served as the American ambassador to the court of King Louis XVI. Franklin's efforts eventually led to the Treaty of Alliance with France in 1778.



Joseph Reed. From <https://wikitree.com/wiki/Reed-6289>.

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JOSEPH REED (CONTINUED)

In January 1775 Reed was named president of Pennsylvania's Second Provincial Congress. His military career began with his appointment as a lieutenant colonel and was then invited on June 19, 1775, to join General George Washington's official staff as his correspondence secretary. After three months of demanding work as an aide-de-camp, Reed chose to resign and went back to his law practice in Philadelphia and sat with the Continental Congress. Finally in March, 1776, Washington offered him the post of Adjutant General which carried the rank of colonel with a salary of 700 pounds.

As the war of independence suffered reverses, Reed turned against Washington's leadership of the military campaigns. Washington had followed Congress's instructions to abandon New York City in September 1776 without burning it. Reed thought New York should be burned so as to not offer winter quarters to the British. Nathan Hale had been hung as a spy by the British on September 22 but the hanging was covered up by the Americans. Despite Washington's orders, over one quarter of the city did burn while he evacuated his demoralized forces from New York City toward New Jersey with Lord Cornwallis troops in pursuit. British General James Robertson saved much of the city by drafting two full regiments of soldiers into makeshift fire brigades to help fight the fires.

Within three weeks after the American victories at Trenton and Princeton, Reed resigned as adjutant general on January 22, 1777, but continued to serve as an unpaid volunteer for Washington at the battles of Brandywine, Germantown and Monmouth.

Offered the position of chief justice of Pennsylvania which he turned down, Reed was elected to serve as a delegate to the Continental Congress and was one of five Pennsylvania signers of the Articles of Confederation. Elected president of the Supreme Executive Council (the equivalent of governor) from 1778 to 1781, Reed also served as an ex-officio member and as president of the board of trustees of what became the University of Pennsylvania until his death four years later. While serving as 'governor' he abolished slavery in Pennsylvania and helped approve granting Revolutionary War soldiers with lifetime "half-pay" for their service.

After the war he returned to his law practice, but his health was failing. He traveled back to England in 1784 in hopes of recovering. Returning soon after, Reed was elected to Congress in 1784 but his declining health prevented him from serving. Reed died on March 5, 1785 and is buried in Philadelphia.

References:

Rose, Alexander, "Washington's Spies", Bantam Books, 2007, pp. 32-37.

Multiple Wikipedia searches.

Robert Knight, at left, and Sam Kistler, at right, at the Southern Maryland Games.



FAIR HILL GAMES REPORT

By Norman Dunkinson

The clan Tacoma (a play on Jim Fargo's oft-used "clan van" phrase!) arrived at the site of the Colonial Highland Gathering, otherwise known as the Fair Hill Scottish Games, near Elkton, Maryland, at 7:00am on Saturday, May 20th. 2023 marked the 61st year for this event!

President **Sam Kistler** arrived shortly thereafter, and we were set-up in no time. The Village of the Clans was located closer to the main games entrance than last year (last year being our first year at the new fairgrounds site). 21 clans were in attendance, as well as the St. Andrew's Societies of Baltimore and the Eastern Shore. Entertainment included Charlie Zahm, Ally the Piper, American Rogues, and Albannach. The Highland Heptathlon, pipe, drum, and dancing competitions were held throughout the day.

Our first visitors to the tent were prospective members from, coincidentally, Red Lion (near where I live) and Hanover (where I was born), Pennsylvania. My father, **Norman Dunkinson III** and his friend **Lynn** were next to arrive. We were also pleased to welcome member **Charles Roberts**, his wife **Michaela**, and their son **Graham** from Baldwin, Maryland. A number of other prospective members visited throughout the day, including a fine family sporting the Robertson tartan making their way to Maryland via Missouri, England, and Jamaica!



Charles Roberts, Graham Roberts, Sam Kistler, the Robertson family and others at the Fair Hill Scottish Games.

Sam, Charles and his family, and our visitors represented Clan Donnachaidh during the clan march. The St. Andrew's Society of Baltimore presented the Address to the Haggis in the afternoon – always a popular event at this game, where all visitors are welcome to partake of the haggis (sometimes with Scotch on top, for those needing a bit of incentive!).

Fair Hill is a great game, and we encourage all clan members to consider putting this one their agenda for 2024!

ROBERTSON'S RANT**EXCERPTS FROM A DIARY—FIRST TRIP TO SCOTLAND (PART 2)**

By Norman Dunkinson

Day 3 (Monday, 28 May 2001)

We awoke at East Mains to a fine Scottish breakfast of bacon (ham), eggs, toast and the ever-present sliced tomatoes. I polished off the carafe of coffee and we snapped a few photos of the house and garden before turning the car to Alloa.

Alloa is only a short drive from Stirling. We parked the car in a lot adjacent to the Maclay Thistle Brewery and immediately headed northwest up Drysdale street in search of the Registrar's Office. We located this easily and were greeted by Irene Johnston, Registrar, upon entry. Mrs. Johnston reviewed our personal information for accuracy, made a point of returning the 3£ that I had over-paid to her, and again tried to sell us on the larger of the two marriage rooms for an additional 35£. We settled, of course, for the smaller.

We had lunch at the Station House Bar—Chris chose chili con carne and Irn Bru, and I a traditional gammon steak (ham steak with a fried egg) and chips. We watched an old fellow in a suit in the corner who seemed to be part of the place. He sat stiff and straight and I noticed the look of profound joy that shown from his face when his banana split was brought.

Leaving the restaurant we...located a florist where Chris ordered a bouquet for Wednesday. We then wound our way to Church Street and the local World War Memorial and St. Mungo's Cathedral. Chris returned to the florist to pay for the flowers while I followed the steeped skyline to Greenside Cemetery. There was a woman inside the cemetery taking photographs but the gate was locked. I walked around the circumference of the cemetery but could not locate another entrance. Chris returned and we met near the gate. A sign posted there directed those interested in obtaining a gate key to a Clackmannanshire Council Office on Limetree Street. Finding this, we returned to the cemetery with the key and proceeded to identify three Duncanson tombstones, two in the oldest section and one in the new. All were photographed, but I fear I will be extremely upset with myself if they don't turn out, or if the inscriptions are unclear, for I failed to transcribe the data, having left my notebook in the car.

We had some fun, too, in the old cemetery, posing for photos with the carved skulls on the stones in the old section while attempting to avoid the raven or blackbird carcasses that littered the place. Two kids, one with red hair and freckles and another with dark hair, climbed over the stone wall separating the cemetery from the park on the south side and lazily asked me what I was doing. I answered, and took a photo of the two sitting on the wall. They explained that they came here for the birds, though to look at them, kill them, or something else, I don't know (kill them, judging by the skeletons). They said that they had never been inside the one remaining portion of the church that could be said to have an inside—it was sealed up, and only the east end existed beyond this, little more than walls, with a large gap in between. The persons who handle such things wasted no time in filling this gap with plots or "lairs." The cemetery continued right through the church. After attempting to climb a 2"x4" to reach a window in the west-end, the kids took off. I soon saw them climbing on the scaffolding of St. John's, another church only a stone's throw away.

We left Alloa, after returning the cemetery key, and proceeded west back to Stirling and north on the A84 to Ochertyre Road, where we located the Broadford House. This was our second stop, technically, on our tour of

EXCERPTS FROM A DIARY (CONTINUED)

Scottish B&B's. Broadford House is a beautiful, vine-clad, stone home. The pink clematis above the main entrance trailed across the façade of the solarium. We didn't see any free-range hens, but the dogs assembled to greet us. We freshened up and returned to Stirling for Dinner at the Hollybank Restaurant near Bannockburn.

Day 4 (Tuesday, 29 May 2001)

We kept to our plan, after some little discussion of visiting the Trossachs, and decided to visit Edinburgh. Prior to departure, our hostess, Heather, prepared a fine Scottish breakfast of the usual sort, but accompanied by "Scottish fruit pies," a dark cake, grilled, of oatmeal and raisins. These were delicious.

It was about an hour from Stirling to Edinburgh. We entered the city from the west, via George Street, and saw much of it, including Duncanson's and Edward's Antiques, before finding a parking space. We parked on Castle Terrace and began the relatively short hike to the castle. Outside the main gate, grandstands were being erected in preparation, I think, for the tattoo at the beginning of August. Inside the castle, the view from the battlements to the north (Princess Street, the New Town, and the Forth) was spectacular. The Honours of Scotland exhibit was clever and well done, culminating after replica "teasers," with the crown, sceptre, sword, jewels, and the Stone of Scone. Mons Meg, being prepped for a paint job, was still available to view. We ate lunch at the Witchery, a top-notch, atmospheric establishment accommodating average tourists, business persons, and the fashionable and trendy alike. Appetizers consisted of baked crostin and roasted red pepper and chorizo soup, while our main courses were grilled sea bass with spaghetti, mussels, and lobster oil, and fillet of Angus beef. Afterwards, we traveled down the Royal Mile in search of a tartan skirt or kilt for Karli. Finding none, Chris checked out Saint Giles while I amused myself in a liquor store with the largest selection of malt whiskey I have ever seen, including many high-priced vintages. We crossed to Princess Street, just east of the Sir Walter Scott Monument, for further shopping. We found that Duncanson and Edwards was more properly a pawnbroker than an antique dealer. On our return toward the carpark, we strolled through Princess Street Gardens and seated ourselves in the shade and on the grass while Chris painted the castle. At the car park, I not only remembered to pay at the machine before leaving but to keep the parking stub for use at the exit gate. We left Edinburgh around 5:00pm and were faced with rush-hour traffic. It took about an



Chris's watercolor of Edinburgh Castle.

hour and a half to return to Broadford where Chris painted a picture of the house. We ate dinner at Leonardo and Company, a chain restaurant, far better than a TGI Friday's or Ruby Tuesday's, specializing in pizza and pasta. Chris had a ham and pineapple pizza (of course), while I opted for the pepperoni, sausage, and red pepper. After phoning Karli from a pay phone, we retired to Broadford for our last evening as technically single persons.



Clansman Justin Dobson throwing the first pitch at the Fredericksburg National's Celtic Night.

**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).

CELTIC EVENTS & GAMES—2023

<u>Event Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>
Carroll County Celtic Festival	Westminster, MD	Jun 10th
Celtic Fling & Highland Games	Manheim, PA	Jun 24th-25th
Green Hill Highland Games	Salem, VA	Aug 26th
Virginia Scottish Games & Festival	The Plains, VA	Sep 2nd-3rd
Edinboro Highland Games & Scottish Festival	Edinboro, PA	Sep 8th-9th
Covenanter Scottish Festival	Quarryville, PA	Sep 9th
Ligonier Highland Festival	Ligonier, PA	Sep 16th
Celtic Classic	Bethlehem, PA	Sep 22nd-24th
Radford Highlanders Festival	Radford, VA	Oct 14th
Richmond Highland Games	Richmond, VA	Nov 4th-5th
Scottish Christmas Walk	Alexandria, VA	Dec 2nd