

ROBERTSON'S RANT

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



BRANCH NEWS

By Norman Dunkinson

This is the first **Robertson's Rant** after a hiatus of many years. To mark a new beginning (and to avoid searching through past newsletters to determine where we left off!), this edition is designated Volume 1, Issue 1.

It is our intent to publish the newsletter, going forward, on a quarterly basis. As such, articles and ideas for future issues are welcome.

Please do not hesitate to share your constructive feedback, either. I can be reached at the e-mail

address noted on the back page of this issue.

The newsletter will be distributed electronically—no hard copies will be mailed. We may, however, bring hard copies to the Games for distribution.

Other items of note:

T-shirts—again, it has been a number of years since we had shirts made (the last being the green polo shirts). Our President, Sam Kistler, is working on graphics for new shirts, and we intend to return to something similar to the black

t-shirts that proved very popular.

Membership cards—I'm considering making branch membership cards. These would serve, in effect, as a receipt for membership dues, and as a reminder to renew membership before the card expiration date. Please let me know your thoughts on this.

Webmaster—we are very much in need of someone willing to maintain and update the www.roberston.org website. If interested, please contact me.

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

MAY 2012

Branch Officers:

President:

Sam Kistler

Vice President:

Ron Bentz

Secretary/Treasurer:

Norman Dunkinson

ATHOLL RANNOCH SOCIETY UPDATE

By Jim Fargo

The Atholl Rannoch Society (our clan's 501 c (3) tax deductible entity) was set up to support the Parent Society in Scotland. The Society's ongoing endeavors are to: (1) raise funds in support of our clan center and museum at Bruar; (2) purchase of saplings to reestablish native woodlands in the clan's name along the eastern slope of our clan moun-

tain (Schiehallion) which is owned and maintained by the John Muir Trust; and (3) support the maintenance of the clan-owned graveyard at Dunalastair where five chiefs are buried.

This summer's project is to remove two oak trees growing within the outer wall of the chiefs' graveyard. These will be cut down to remove the continuing problem of falling branches and root

damage to both the inner and outer stone walls. The two yew trees within the outer wall will be pruned and remain. If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to help support any of these endeavors, please send a check made payable to the Atholl Rannoch Society to the Branch address.

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ROBERTSON'S RANT

LEXINGTON GAMES REPORT

By Jim Fargo

On April 14th, the clan van arrived at the Rockbridge County High School in Lexington, VA. Branch President Sam Kistler and I soon had the van unloaded and gear set up at the tent site in the school parking lot. We were ready by 9AM for the start of the 6th annual Lexington Scots-Irish Heritage Festival. This year we were situated on the end of a row of tents across from clans Henderson and Logan and behind clan Cunningham. At this event they intersperse vendors between the clans so we had a vendor

as our next door neighbor.

It was a beautiful sunny day in the 70s and the attendance was pretty good. This site was an improvement over last year's location at the local middle school. Along with the arrival of twenty potential new members, we welcomed members Dave Strunk and Sonny Bishop and his family to the clan tent. Although there was no official clan parade, in the afternoon we marched with clans Henderson and Logan around the games site behind two bagpipers from the Shenandoah

Valley Pipes and Drums. The other two bands were Warpipe and the VMI Pipes and Drums.

The sponsor of this festival is the Lexington Lions Club and the proceeds from the event go to support the Rockbridge Area Free Clinic. Sam and I had a good time and will be back next year. We hope additional clan members will consider adding this event to their schedule.



Early Donnachaidh Arms

*“Robertson Arms: Gules, three wolves’ heads erased two and one Argent, armed and langued Azure”
- Scottish Clan and Family Encyclopedia*



Bruar Falls

SOUTHERN MARYLAND GAMES REPORT

By Jim Fargo

At 8AM on April 28th, the clan van arrived at the Jefferson-Patterson Park in Saint Leonard, Maryland for the 34th annual Celtic Festival of Southern Maryland. Branch President Sam Kistler, several friends and I soon had the van unloaded and gear set up at our double tent site between clans McLaren and Keith. We were ready by 9AM for the arrival of Evan and Rosalie Duncan with the Donnachaidh Diner provisions.

It was a typical Scottish cloudy day in the mid-50s and the attendance was pretty good. The rain held off till after we were heading home at 6PM. Along with the arrival of eight potential new members, we welcomed many members and their families to the clan tent for the first time. One of these was Sarah Hoffman, the sister of Steve Hoffman (President Sam's bodyguard!) who leads the clan and carries our wolf head standard in the Christmas Walk parade every year.

Although Evan Duncan and I participated in the official clan parade, in the afternoon, after a wonderful lunch provided by the Duncans, we marched once again. This year, there was a Clan Lindsay tent on the opposite side of the clan field. With our usual good luck we were able to entice bagpiper Peter Walker, from the celtic musical group “The Devil’s Tailors,” to lead our clan march. The enticement and real bonus was the “capture” of Chris Lindsay and his son from

the same group. We marched around the clan field to much applause and with appropriate fanfare “released” our 2 captives to the safe hands of the Lindsay convener Leslie Hughes. We then presented the Lindsays with a wee highland cow to commemorate the 620th anniversary of the Raid of Angus!

Sam and I believe everyone had a great time and our clan tents will certainly be back next year. This is a great celtic festival that you should consider attending next year on April 27, 2013.

2011 BRANCH REPORT

By Norman Dunkinson

For those of you who do not belong to the Parent Society in Scotland and receive the Clan Annual, I've re-printed here our 2011 Branch Report:

The Mid-Atlantic Branch attended 15 Highland Games and other Scottish events throughout 2011. President Sam Kistler and member Bob Land attended the Richmond St. Andrews Society's Burns Dinner in January. The Games season opened in early April with the Scots-Irish Heritage Festival in Lexington, Virginia, followed later that month by the Celtic Festival of Southern Maryland in Saint Leonard, Maryland. In May, the Branch attended the Scottish Festival and Celtic Gathering in Bridgeport, West Virginia, and the Colonial Highland Gathering in Fairhill, Maryland (in its 51st year!).

The Branch attended two Games simultaneously on June 4th – the McHenry Highland Festival in McHenry, Maryland, that we've been attending for many years (and where the author of this article first encountered the Clan in 2004), and the Bonnie Brae Scottish Festival and Highland Gath-

ering in Liberty Corner, New Jersey. These two Games were followed by the Front Royal Celtic Festival in Front Royal, Virginia, also held in June. In July, we sponsored a tent at the Grandfather Mountain Games in North Carolina along with the two tents hosted by the Branch of the Carolinas.

Our President, Dr. John Lentz, Harry Robertson, and others were in attendance.

The fall season began with the McLain Celtic Festival in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, in September. While our tent was absent for the first time in many years, our Vice-President, Ron Bentz, was nonetheless in attendance. The Virginia Scottish Games in The Plains, Virginia, were held the same weekend, and were attended by our President and a number of our Branch members. The Ligonier Highland Games were attended the following weekend.

In October, our Branch attended the Williamsburg Scottish Festival in Williamsburg, Virginia, and, to close the Games season, the Meadow Highland Games and Celtic Festival in

Doswell, Virginia. Many thanks to all of our conveners, especially former officer Jim Fargo, for all of their work throughout the games season.

As always, our Branch marched as a unit in the Scottish Christmas Walk in Alexandria, Virginia, during the first weekend in December, followed by our annual Clan Luncheon at the Fish Market restaurant. It was with sadness, though, that we did not begin our day with long-time Branch member David Levite's morning Christmas party, due to Dave's move to South Carolina. Best wishes, Dave!

“As always, our branch marched as a unit in the Scottish Christmas Walk in Alexandria, Virginia...”



Struan Kirk



Schiehallion

**CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY
MID-ATLANTIC BRANCH**

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Stewartstown, PA 17363

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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.
Mid-Atlantic Branch membership dues are \$20.00 per year.

UPCOMING CELTIC EVENTS AND GAMES—2012

Frederick Celtic Festival***	Mt. Airy, MD	May 12th
Colonial Highland Gathering***	Fair Hill, MD	May 19th
McHenry Highland Festival***	McHenry, MD	June 2nd
Bonnie Brae Scottish Festival	Liberty Corner, NJ	June 2nd
Grandfather Mountain Highland Games***	Linville, NC	July 12th—15th
Adams County Irish Festival	Gettysburg, PA	July 21st
McLain Celtic Festival***	Carlisle, PA	September 1st
Virginia Scottish Games and Festival***	The Plains, VA	September 1st-2nd
Ligonier Highland Games***	Ligonier, PA	September 22nd
Celtic Classic Festival	Bethlehem, PA	September 28th—30th
Virginia Celtic Gathering***	Lanexa, VA	October 5th—6th
Chesapeake Celtic Festival	Snow Hill, MD	October 6th—7th
Radford Highlanders Festival***	Radford, VA	October 13th
Scottish Christmas Walk+++	Alexandria, VA	December 1st

*** Clan Donnachaidh Tent

+++ Clan Donnachaidh Luncheon

