

ROBERTSON'S RANT

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



SOUTHERN MARYLAND GAMES REPORT

By Jim Fargo, FSA Scot

At 8:00am on Saturday, April 29th, my new blue clan van arrived at the Jefferson-Patterson Park in Saint Leonard, Maryland for the 39th annual Southern Maryland Celtic Festival. **Robert Knight** and I soon had the van unloaded and gear set up at our double tent site between our Clan Sinclair and Clan Henderson neighbors. We were ready by 8:30am prior to the arrival of **Evan Duncan** and **President Sam Kistler**.

It was not a typical Scottish day with the temperature in the mid-90s. The games attendance was about what we hoped for, and we were able to welcome some members and guests along with their families to the clan tent including **Alex Duncan, Kathy, Katie and Mike (Reid) Katan, Grant Graessle, Steve Hoffman, Laura (Robison) McElwee, Harry Robertson, Kelly Robertson**. 100,000 welcomes to our newest branch member: **Kathleen (Robertson) Senyard** and her family.

Evan, Sam, Grant and I were joined by the entire **Charles (Reed) Smylie** family for the clan parade. After the parade we reconvened in the clan tents to cool off and enjoy various kinds of refreshments. **Chris Lindsay** (the convener for Clan Lindsay) and his two sons came by several times during the day and received repeated reminders that this year marks the 625th anniversary of the "Raid of Angus"!

At 2:00pm, the Knobbly Knee competition was held with 3 categories being judged by three discerning ladies. Wonder upon wonder, **Evan Duncan** won the Knobbly Knees award while **Robert Knight** won the Most Scarred knees award. The Handsomest Knees category was won by a lad from another clan.



This is a wonderful Celtic festival and Sam and I believe everyone had a great time. We will be back with our double tent setup again next year on Saturday, April 28, 2018, the 40th anniversary of this festival! Hope to see you there!

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Branch Officers:

President:

Sam Kistler

Vice President:

Ron Bentz

Secretary/Treasurer:

Norman Dunkinson

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MID-MARYLAND (FREDERICK) GAMES REPORT

By Norman Dunkinson

In the mist and drizzle of a fine Scottish morning, my wife **Chris**, my son **Asher**, and I arrived at the site of the Mid-Maryland Celtic Festival about ½ hour prior to opening at 8:30am on Saturday, May 13th. We were greeted by **President Sam Kistler**, who kindly pointed us in the direction of the VIP hall to avail ourselves of some hot beverages – our mainstay throughout the day. **Evan Duncan** arrived shortly afterward with some adult beverages and his famous shortbread (which was also entered into the shortbread baking contest), and we settled down to some fine conversation with our fellow clansfolk.

The rain and cold continued throughout the morning; surprisingly, it did not seem to hinder festival attendance. After a breakfast of haggis and eggs (beef haggis, but very good, nonetheless), we visited the vendor area to pick-up a kilt belt, hose, and flashers for Asher. Evan, Asher, and I then headed to the athletic field and watched both male and female athletes competing in the 28 and 56 pound weight toss, as we waited to represent the clan during opening ceremonies. While quite a small contingent, we managed a solid “Fierce When Roused” that brought a favorable response from the crowd.

Just as Asher was beginning to talk of retiring to the car to avoid the weather and play video games, members **John and Jennifer Robertson** arrived with their daughters **Caroline and Julia** and Caroline’s friend **Julia** from the clan Campbell. Asher was soon under the spell of the three bonnie lasses as they whisked him away from the tent. All four appeared to have a great time throughout the remainder of the day, judging from the mud and muck they were covered in upon their return. Apparently there is a new highland co-ed youth mud wrestling event that is now part of the games circuit!

The rain cleared off in the afternoon, and President Sam, as is his custom, flew his airplane over the site of the Festival to take photos. Upon his return, everyone drank a toast to Evan’s late wife, Rosalie. Visitors to the tent picked-up quite a bit in the afternoon as well, and we were pleased to welcome back members **Art and Dawn Reid** and new member **Scott Alexander Reid** and family.

Asher, who virtually never sleeps in the car, was “lights out” all the way home – apparently the Robertson and Campbell lasses wore him out! It was a great day despite the weather, and we encourage members to attend this well-run event in 2018!



At the Mid-Maryland (Frederick) Celtic Festival. Back row, left to right: Julia (clan Campbell), Caroline Robertson, Asher Dunkinson. Front row: Julia Robertson.



Clan Donnachaidh at the Mid-Maryland (Frederick) Celtic Festival.

Left to right: Norman Dunkinson, Asher Dunkinson, Evan Duncan, and Sam Kistler.



KING DUNCAN'S MISTRESS

By Jim Fargo, FSA Scot

The village of Forteviot in Perthshire was once the capital of the Pictish province of Fortreen. It became the royal palace of the Picts until they were defeated by Kenneth MacAlpine in 843. This victory resulted in the eventual union of the Scots and Picts into one kingdom. After MacAlpine's death in 860 it remained a favorite residence of Scottish kings.

Duncan I became king of Scots on the death of King Malcolm II, his maternal grandfather, in late 1034. During his reign (1034-1039), one of his royal palaces was located on a small hill to the northwest of the village of Forteviot. One evening when returning from a hunting expedition, he was separated from his retinue and stopped at a mill beside the River Earn near Forteviot. The miller and his family entertained their guest with equal pleasure and pride and King Duncan stayed the night.

Duncan kept up the acquaintance with the miller's family and Nell the miller's daughter became Duncan's leman (mistress). Their union produced a son, Malcolm, born in March 1031 in Dunkeld. This son's proud grandfather was Crinan, Abbot of Dunkeld.

Crinan was killed in 1045 in a failed attempt to put his grandson on the throne.

Malcolm eventually became king of Scots (1058-1093). During his 35 year reign, Malcolm III (Canmore), used the palace as a hunting lodge.

References:

Marshall, William "Historic Scenes in Perthshire", Edinburgh, 1880, p 103.

McKerracher, Archie "Perthshire in History and Legend", Edinburgh, 2000, p 212.

ROBERTSON'S RANT

SCOTS HUMOUR

Courtesy of Andrew Fargo

An Englishman visiting Pitlochry was having dinner at a local restaurant. He objected to the serving of a bowl of haggis at his table, though he ate a good plateful of it.

"What did you think of the haggis?" asked the hospitable waitress, seeing that he partook so plentifully of it. "Humph!" he replied, with his mouth full, "it's very good food for hogs!"

"Then let me help you to some mair o' it," said Mrs. Duncan, helping him bountifully.

BATTLE OF THE STANDARD

By Jim Fargo, FSA Scot

After the death of King Henry I of England, King David I supported the claims of Henry's daughter and his own niece (Matilda) to the throne of England against her cousin Stephen of Blois. David led a Scottish army into northern Yorkshire in January 1138. King Stephen moved north with his army but both armies avoided each other until late July. The Scottish army was defeated at the 'Battle of the Standard' in August 1138. David's army retreated to Carlisle but his men continued to occupy Cumberland as well as much of Northumbria. In April 1139 the second treaty of Durham was settled. David's young son Henry was given the earldom of Northumberland and was restored to the English earldom of Huntingdon. As part of the treaty, King Stephen of England recognized Scotland as an independent kingdom including Northumbria.



The Battle of the Standard. Sir John Gilbert (1817-1897). Watercolor (1879-80). Engraved by Madame Jacob-Bazin.

CEUD MILE FAILTE (100,000 WELCOMES)!

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

Charles J. Smylie Kathleen Senyard Art & Dawn Reid Scott A. Reid Harry L. Robertson Jr.

We hope to see you at the Games in 2017!

BATTLE OF THE STANDARD (CONTINUED)

The leader of Atholl at this time (1115-1152) was Henry, 1st celtic earl of Atholl. This Henry was the son of Melmare, younger brother of Malcolm Canmore. He was first cousin to both King Alexander I and King David I. Being a close relative, he played an active part in public affairs and would have been part of the Scottish army with his retainers.

Henry, 3rd celtic earl of Atholl had a second son named Conan. On Henry's death, Conan did not succeed to the earldom, but did inherit vast lands from his father. Conan, is the founder of the "de Atholia" line from which our clan chiefs descend. Four generations later Conan's great-great-grandson Duncan became our first recognized clan chief. Conan's original lands in Glenerochie formed the core of what became our expanded clan lands.

With the return of Holy Roman Empress Matilda and her supporters to southern England in late 1139, the English civil war with King Stephen was renewed. David took advantage of this strife to increase his domination over northern England. David's capture of the silver mines at Alston and the established English mint at Carlisle in 1136 enabled him to begin minting Scotland's first silver coinage (sterling silver pennies) and later established additional mints at Edinburgh, Berwick and Roxburgh.

King David I was one of medieval Scotland's greatest monastic patrons. As such, he was able to convince the pope that as an independent kingdom, the Scottish church should be freed from the control of the archdiocese of York. He established nine bishoprics at St. Andrews, Aberdeen, Brechin, Caithness, Dunblane, Dunkeld, Glasgow, Ross and Whithorn. He was later canonized as a Saint for his work in establishing fifteen religious houses throughout Scotland, including abbeys at Selkirk, Kelso, Holyrood (now Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh), and Melrose.

References:

Cowan, Samuel, "Three Celtic Earldoms", 1909, pp 11-15.

Donaldson, Gordon, "Scottish Kings", 1977, pp 9-16.

Paton, Sir Noel, "The Descendants of Conan of Glenerochie", 1873, pp 3-4.

Ross, David, "Scotland, History of a Nation", 2004, pp 61-68.



Dunkeld Cathedral. Photo by Norman Dunkinson (August 2003).



Glenfinnan. Photo by Norman Dun-kinson (August 2003).

**CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY
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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 AND GAMES—2017

<u>Event Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>
Celtic Fling & Highland Games	Manheim, PA	Jun 24th-25th
Adams County Irish Festival	Gettysburg, PA	Jul 15th
McLain Celtic Festival	Carlisle, PA	Sep 2nd
Virginia Scottish Games & Festival	The Plains, VA	Sep 2nd-3rd
Edinboro Highland Games & Scottish Festival	Edinboro, PA	Sep 9th
MD Renaissance Festival Celtic Celebration	Annapolis, MD	Sep 16th-17th
Celtic Classic	Bethlehem, PA	Sep 23rd-24th
Ligonier Highland Festival	Ligonier, PA	Sep 23rd
Chesapeake Celtic Festival	Snow Hill, MD	Oct 7th-8th
Central Virginia Celtic Festival & Games	Richmond, VA	Oct 28th-29th
Scottish Christmas Walk	Alexandria, VA	Dec 2nd