

ROBERTSON'S RANT

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



FIERCE WHEN ROUSED IS BACK!

By Norman Dunkinson

I am very happy to report that the Mid-Atlantic Branch of Clan Donnachaidh has obtained publishing control over *Fierce When Roused*, a Novel of the Scottish Wars of Independence, a work of historical fiction authored by **Mark Knebusch**, former Vice-President of the Branch, who passed away in 2007.

Thanks to **Jim Fargo** (who also edited the book) for providing me with the necessary paperwork to complete the process with the publisher!

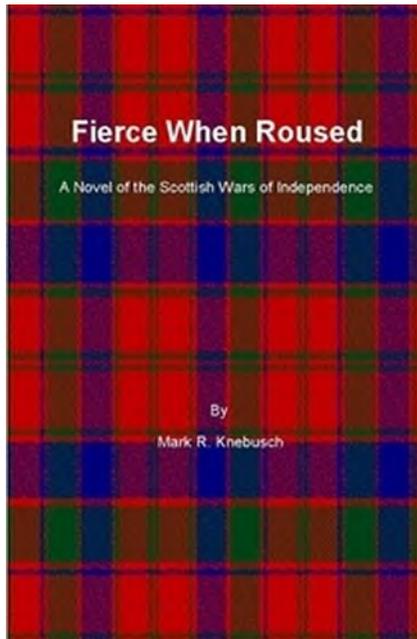
The 208 page paperback will be available at the Donnachaidh tent in 2020 and will retail for \$15. Here's an excerpt:

*Froch Eilean! Garg'n Uair Dhuishgear!
The two chiefs ran down the hill side by side, with 2,000 eager blades and the world's fiercest camp followers trailing in their wake. It looked and sounded exactly as MacDonald had intended, and exactly what it was, a fresh army coming to the rescue.*

Half a dozen different warcries from 2,000 throats rang out over the field, overlaid by the skirl of massed pipes. The women made up their own war cries, high, shrill and bloodcurdling. The Bruce knew within a dozen men how many he'd placed on that hill and his campaigner's eye now saw twice that many come down. He didn't have to hear the familiar cry to know what had happened. He punched his standard bearer's arm and cried, 'It's Duncan, lad! Donnachaidh is here!'

The English looked up, blanched and faltered.

On the other side of the pikes, two dozen warcries ripped afresh from 8,000 throats as the hard-pressed Scots found their second wind and gathered their strength for the one last push that would bring them freedom.



VOLUME 8, ISSUE 3

SEPTEMBER 2019

Branch Officers

President:

Sam Kistler

Vice President:

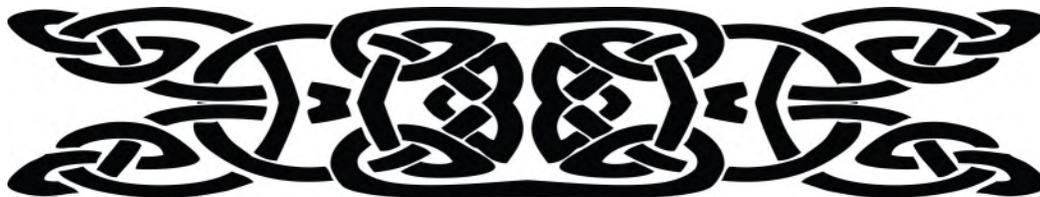
Ron Bentz

Secretary/Treasurer:

Norman Dunkinson

Inside this issue:

Green Hill Games Re-	2
Archibald Duncan (1914-	2
Virginia Scottish Games	3
Covenanter Scottish Festival Report	6
Ceud Mile Failte	7
Reign of King Alexander I (1107-1124)	7
Origin of the Hunting Robertson Tartan—1803	8
Golfing Great—Allan Robertson (1815-1859)	9
Celtic Events and Games—2019	10



ROBERTSON'S RANT

GREEN HILL GAMES REPORT

By Jim Fargo

Saturday, August 24th, began the second half of my Games Season as we drove two hours down I-81 to Salem Virginia for the Green Hill Highland Games. Overcast and raining most of the way, my "clan van" arrived at the Green Hill Park at 7:30am to find our neighbors Clan Malcolm/MacCallum and Clan Campbell already setting up for the day. **Robert Knight** and I quickly had our new tent out of the box and were ready for visitors when our clan piper **Ripley Williams** arrived to help out.

It turns out that this event was in its eleventh year and began as an event only for athletic competitions. That explained why there were over 50 athletes out on the field when we arrived. This was only the third year with clan tent participation and we were one of the fifteen clans in attendance.

The day stayed cloudy, dry and in the low-70s all day and we had a good turnout of local clanfolk coming into the tent in addition to visitors looking for help in finding the clan with which they could claim affiliation. For me, the main highlight of the day was meeting **Catherine McClain** and her parents. She is the young lady who won our clan's fiddling trophy at the 2018 Virginia Scottish Games last September. A close second was enjoying the whisky tasting event along with **Ern Malcolm** and **Robert Knight**.

To all thirteen of our clanfolk who stopped by, thank you! Your attendance made it a very enjoyable day for us and we plan to host a clan tent next year! Hopefully the organizers will review and change their current policy of considering clans the same as for-profit vendors and eliminate the vendor fee for selling clan t-shirts and accepting branch membership dues from our clanfolk.

ARCHIBALD DUNCAN (1914-1979)

By Jim Fargo, FSA Scot

Archie Duncan was a Scottish actor born in Glasgow in May 1914 and died in London in July 1979. Duncan's father was a regimental sergeant major in the army and his mother was a postmistress. He began his acting career in repertory theatre and plays before going into movie and television roles. His early film roles spanned 1948 to 1952 before he went into television and then continued from 1957 to 1975.

His most famous roles were in two classic television series. He was Inspector Lestrade in the 1954-55 series 'Sherlock Holmes' with Ronald Howard as Sherlock Holmes and Howard Marion Crawford as Dr. Watson. He portrayed Little John in the 'Adventures of Robin Hood' series from 1955 to 1960. It was during the filming of an episode of Robin Hood in 1955 that he managed to prevent a runaway horse and cart from running over a group of children watching the filming. His injuries caused him to miss 11 of the 143 total episodes. For his bravery, he was awarded the "Queen's Commendation for Bravery" and received reward money from the film company.

His most memorable movie role (as far as I'm concerned) was as Dugal MacGregor in Walt Disney's 1953 movie classic 'Rob Roy, the Highland Rogue' with Richard Todd as Rob Roy and James Robertson Justice portraying (gasp!) the Campbell Earl of Argyll. This movie reflects the romanticized social and military spirit of a Scottish clan, not like more recent Rob Roy films. One of his last roles was as the ditch digger who kills the otter "Midge" with his spade in the 'Ring of Bright Water' (1969).

VIRGINIA SCOTTISH GAMES REPORT

By Jim Fargo

Our second event in the second half of our Games Season began on Labor Day weekend (August 31st/September 1st) with the 46th annual Virginia Scottish Games & Festival held at Great Meadow in The Plains. Arriving at 7:30am on Saturday morning, **Robert Knight** and I again found ourselves beside our House of Gordon cousins at one end of a long clan row. We managed to squeeze in a third tent and expand to a joint five tent layout. Saturday was an unusual day for us as **Sam Kistler** and **Norman and Asher Dunkinson** were with us for the whole day rather than being at the Carlisle Games. Attendance was great both days and our four stalwart lads (**Evan Duncan**, **Steve Hoffman**, **Robert Knight** and yours truly) managed to keep abreast of all the clanfolk and visitors that came by.

We were in our usual corner spot about 50 feet from the entertainment tent, an ideal site for both listening to the celtic music coming from that tent throughout the weekend and watching the athletic competitions in the central field. The lead singer for the Steel City Rovers was our Robertson clansman (**Ryan McKenna**) from Ontario Canada.

After participating in the clan parade each day (which are well received by the spectators) we adjourned back to the clan tents for lunch. Our combined Donnachaidh Diner/Gordon Grill was well stocked and everyone in both clans plus the Lindsays were well fed. Much thanks to everyone who brought refreshments and to **Dave and Lois Todd** for again hosting the Gordon Grill.

Sunday was also a beautiful sunny day and many friends, visitors and clanfolk came by our triple tent site. We gave out over twenty applications for membership. In addition, during the weekend we were visited several times by our Lindsay friends who were looking for their "lost" cow (which might have been in Sunday's beef burgers)!

The Scottish Fiddling tent was located over by the Highland Dancing area, near the main entrance, about as far from our location as possible. We again sponsored the "Ronald Duncan Gonnella Memorial" 2nd place Open trophy and this year as I was getting the van to pack up on Sunday evening, I met our winner, **Amy Lees Fox**, a MacPherson with some Robertson ancestry!

This festival is well run with lots of other attractions for your whole family (living history groups, British car show, highland dancing, sheepherding, etc.) in addition to visiting with your own clanfolk. It is well worth attending and I hope you can come join all of us next Labor Day weekend.



Amy Lees Fox, winner of the Ronald Duncan Gonnella Memorial 2nd Place Open trophy, at the Virginia Scottish Games.

ROBERTSON'S RANT

Green Hill Games. L to R: Ripley Williams, Jim Fargo, and Robert Knight.



Knobby Knees at the Virginia Scottish Games. L to R: Sam Kistler, Robert Knight, Evan Duncan, Harry Robertson.



Covenanter Scottish Festival. Front row, L to R: Jacob Linzey, Asher Dunkinson. Back row, L to R: Norman Dunkinson, Christine Dunkinson, Karli Ginther, Sydney Ginther, Colin Ginther.

Jim Fargo sharing a dram with members of Clan Lindsay, after recovering their wee coo from the Donnachaidh tent, at the Virginia Scottish Games.



ROBERTSON'S RANT

COVENANTER SCOTTISH FESTIVAL

By Norman Dunkinson

The 6th Annual Covenanter Scottish Festival was held on Saturday, September 7th, on the site of the Octorara Covenanter Church in Quarryville, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. **Don Henderson**, the clan organizer for this game, reached out to me six years ago prior to the first event, but I was unable to attend that year. Running into him at the Cumberland Valley Battle of the Bagpipes in June, he asked if I was ever going to come – after forgetting about it for the last 5 years, I certainly felt obligated!

This turned out to be quite a nice event in a number of ways. First, the site itself is closely linked with Scotland as the church is the oldest Covenanter Church in North America, dating back to 1754. Second, the clan tents were established in a very advantageous location, on a hill that began at the entrance and rimmed one end of the rectangular grassy area where the entertainment tent, heritage tent, vendors, highland dancing, and athletic events were located. As such, visitors were naturally funneled along this rim and down clan row, and the clans themselves had a great view of all of the activities, including the athletics, throughout the day. Third, visitor traffic was strong – to the point that reports were heard, as early as 10:00am, that parking was no longer available (another rumor heard was that the games may have to relocate, due to this reason).

Clans in attendance at this game, in addition to Donnachaidh, included Bruce, Ferguson, Gregor, Keith, Lockhart, MacAlister, MacDougall, Montgomery, Morrison, and Nesbit, along with the Octorara DAR, Highland Society of Harford County, Lancaster Celtic Arts, Lancaster Spinners & Weavers. **Christine Dunkinson**, my wife, **Asher Dunkinson**, my son, **Jacob Linzey**, Asher's friend, **Karli Ginther**, my daughter-in-law, **Colin Ginther**, her husband, and **Sydney Ginther**, their daughter, all arrived in the late morning. I was also very pleased to greet members **Ruth & Bob McRobbie** (Bob is responsible for locating the Robertson's Cheddar that was shared with clan members at the Fair Hill games earlier this year).

One unique feature of this game is the veteran's memorial service. The clans marched behind the Washington Memorial Pipes and Drums through the games area and to the old cemetery, where a veteran of World War I who died of wounds received in combat was honored. This was in addition to the opening ceremony, where each clan was recognized by name. Though each clan had only a small contingent, many readers will know that I don't lack for volume, and our "Fierce When Roused" was met with the response of "now that's a war cry!" from an unknown person in the direction of the entertainment tent.

Around 4:00pm, under the entertainment tent, I accepted, on behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Branch, the framed certificate for "Best Clan." This comes with the benefit of a free-of-charge space for the clan tent next year – and we do intend to return!

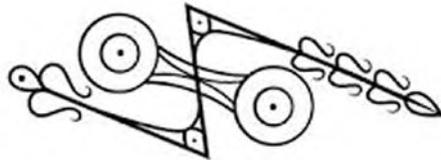
[Clan Row at the close of the Covenanter Scottish Festival in Pennsylvania Dutch Country \(Quarryville, PA\).](#)



CEUD MILE FAILTE (100,000 WELCOMES)!

We'd like to welcome the following 12 new and returning members who joined or renewed since the last report:

Brandon Burk	James Daum	Hugh Hughes	Kimberly Miller-Daum
David Moran	David Naughton	Bethany Reid	Cathleen Robertson
Jacqueline Robertson	J. Mott Robertson Jr.	Judd Robertson	Ripley Williams



REIGN OF KING ALEXANDER I (1107-1124)

A Continuation of the "Royal House of Dunkeld" Article Series by Jim Fargo, FSA Scot

Before King Edgar's death in 1107, he bequeathed the kingdom of Scotland to his younger brother Alexander as King and his youngest brother David for southern Lothian and Strathclyde (Cumbria).

Alexander (born about 1077) was known by the sobriquet 'the Fierce' both for his suppression of rebellions in Moray and the Mearns and his efforts to defend the independence of the Church in Scotland from England. Alexander's sister Edith (known as Queen Maud in England) was married to King Henry I of England and Alexander married his brother-in-law's illegitimate daughter Sibylla. His reign is remembered for his encouragement of monastic orders. Augustinian priories were founded at Scone, Inchcolm and planned for Dunkeld and Saint Andrews.

In 1115, Earl Madach, son of Melmare, Malcolm Canmore's youngest brother was given the earldom of Atholl. This Earl witnessed the granting of a Foundation Charter at Scone by his first cousin Alexander I. Earl Madach married Margaret, the daughter of Haakon, Earl of Orkney and they had a son, Harold who succeeded his father as the Earl of Orkney in 1139.

On Alexander's death at Stirling in April 1124, without legitimate issue, he was buried at Dunfermline Abbey. His younger brother David ascended the throne at the age of about forty-four as King David I.

References:

Cowan, Samuel, "Three Celtic Earldoms", Edinburgh, 1909, pp. 14-15.

Bingham, Caroline, "Kings and Queens of Scotland", New York, 1976, pp. 20-21,150.

Paton, Sir Noel, "The Descendants of Conan of Glenerochie", privately printed, 1873, p. 3.



Alexander I, King of Scotland.

ROBERTSON'S RANT

ORIGIN OF THE HUNTING ROBERTSON TARTAN—1803

Originally published in *Robertson's Rant*, November 1996, by Jim Fargo, FSA Scot

Thirty-one years after Culloden, Lord George Murray's grandson, the 4th Duke of Atholl, raised a Highland regiment for the regular army. Named the 77th Atholl Highlanders, the regiment was raised in 1777 to serve for three years or for the duration of the American War of Independence. It was stationed in Ireland until 1783 where a possible landing of French or Spanish troops was feared. With peace concluded with America, the 77th Atholl Highlanders were ordered to Portsmouth for transfer to India. When the regiment heard of their new orders, they mutinied. Finding that the terms of enlistment did not allow this transfer, the Government rescinded its orders and the regiment was marched back to Scotland and disbanded. This kilted regiment wore the Atholl tartan.

There are two schools of thought about the origin of the Atholl tartan. It is believed to have evolved by adding a red stripe to the blue and green Government tartan worn by the Black Watch. On the other hand, the first Highland Watch, from which the Black Watch eventually developed, was raised by the then Earl of Atholl in 1667, and its possible they could have been dressed in a uniform Atholl or green Murray tartan, since it was the tartan of their commander. Unfortunately, there are no records from the period to prove it either way. However it originated, the Atholl or modern green Murray tartan was the basis for what we now know as the Hunting Robertson tartan.

The formation of fencible regiments were authorized in 1802 with the end of the French Revolution and the rise of Napoleon. England declared war with France in 1803. These regiments were raised and trained throughout Scotland during the early Napoleonic era as a reserve force against an expected French invasion of England. The French threat of invasion wasn't eliminated until October 21, 1805, when Admiral Nelson sank half the combined French and Spanish fleets at Trafalgar. With France's challenge to British sea power destroyed, the militias were later demobilized so that highlanders could fill the Scottish line regiments fighting on the continent.



Asher Dunkinson (back to photo) sporting Jim Fargo's Hunting Robertson kilt and carrying the Hunting Robertson flag at the Covenanter Scottish Festival.

General William Robertson of Lude raised the Loyal Clan Donnachie Volunteers and maintained them at his private expense from 1803 until 1809. Today's Hunting Robertson tartan was probably developed in 1803 specifically for this group of clansmen. It is based on the Atholl tartan with the addition of a white stripe in both the warp and weft crossing in the blue.

The Loyal Clan Donnachie Volunteers consisted of three companies. Under the command of Colonel John Robertson of Lude (the General's brother) and Robert Robertson of Auchleeks, the Lude and Glenerochty companies wore Robertson Hunting tartan kilts and red jackets with white facings while the officers wore silver laced uniforms. Robert Reid, in a gold laced uniform, commanded the Mounted Artillery Company, which wore blue coats and facings with blue breeches.

Major General David Stewart of Garth visited Colonel Alexander Robertson of Struan (15th chief) in 1815 to request a sample of the clan tartan. Unable to identify one at that time, Struan eventually provided a pattern which bears no likeness

to any of our clan tartans worn today. In 1816 Struan sealed that the Hunting Robertson tartan was the true clan tartan for the Highland Society of London's collection.

References: *Scottish Tartan Authority Number 299*; *Scottish Register of Tartans Act 2008*

GOLFING GREAT—ALLAN ROBERTSON (1815-1859)

By Jim Fargo

I recently came across a golfing book entitled “St Andrews and Golf” and was pleased to learn about a Scotsman named Allan Robertson. He was the champion golfer of his day and is considered the first golf professional. It was interesting to me to note that his golfing partner was a Morris which is a sept of the clan Morrison which is the clan of my son Ed’s wife Kimberly.

Allan was born on September 11, 1815 to a family of golf ball makers and caddies in Saint Andrews that had made feather balls by hand since the early 1700s. There was an ongoing trade with America with hickory shafts being exported to Scotland and golf clubs and balls being imported back as early as the 1740s.

“While other makers imprinted balls with their last names, Robertson just stamped ‘ALLAN’ in capital letters on his golf balls.” The feather golf balls were expensive (costing about three times the cost of a single club). The high cost meant that only the wealthy could afford to play. This changed in 1848 when the gutta-percha resin became available. Imported from Malaysia, the rubber-like sap was collected by cutting the tree’s bark. The collected resin could be heated and shaped either by hand or in a mold then was allowed to harden into its new shape. The gutty ball cost half the price of a club and this led to a dramatic growth in the number of golfers in Scotland.



Allan Robertson.

Allan was one of the first golf professionals. When not making golf balls in the 1840s and 1850s, he would compete in challenge matches for money, often partnering with his apprentice, Tom Morris. In 1848, they fell out over the use by Tom Morris of the new gutty ball. Tom had broken his promise never to use the new ball in play which threatened Robertson’s trade. Tom Morris then set up his own shop in Prestwick and made both types of golf balls. We know him today as “Old Tom” Morris to differentiate him from his golfing son “Young Tom”. Allan was the first to introduce an iron club for pitching the ball to the green. It was Young Tom who perfected the use of the niblick to stop a ball quickly on a hard green.

In the early 1850s, Allan too began producing and using the new ball. There was a great rivalry between the St Andrews and Musselburgh courses and there were matches between the two clubs that drew large crowds. In July 1843 Allan played a match with Willie Dunn over the Old Course at St Andrews. The match was over 10 consecutive days of two rounds per day. On the tenth day with Allan ahead by one round, he won the morning round and thus being ahead two rounds with one to play was declared the winner. In 1849 Allan and Tom Morris took on the formidable twins, Willie and Jamie Dunn of Musselburgh for the then huge stake of 400 pounds. The Dunns won on their home course and the Morris/Robertson team won at St Andrews. The deciding match at the ‘neutral’ course of North Berwick was won by Tom and Allan. The pair were never beaten in foursome play.

Using the gutty ball, Allan in 1858 was the first person to break 80 (shot 79) on the Old Course. That round occurred just a few months before his death from jaundice, and a little more that a year before the first Open Championship was held in 1860 at Prestwick. It was stated that had he lived, “there was little doubt that Allan would have captured the title. He was that good.” After his death, there were those who sought an official event to find a successor to his unofficial title of professional player. Prestwick inaugurated the first Open. Allan is buried in the cemetery on the grounds of the St Andrews Cathedral.

References:

Campbell, Malcolm, “Scottish Golf Book”, Sports Publishing, 1999, pp 19, 205; Olman, John M, “St. Andrews and Golf”, Market Street Press, 1995, pp 86-87; Stirk, David, “Golf, The History of an Obsession”, Phaidon Press Ltd, 1987, pp 32-33.



**CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY
MID-ATLANTIC BRANCH**

19354 Barrrens Rd. S.
Stewartstown, PA 17363

Email: ngdiv@verizon.net



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.



CELTIC EVENTS AND GAMES—2019 (2ND HALF OF GAMES SEASON)

<u>Event Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>
Celtic Classic	Bethlehem, PA	Sep 27th-29th
Chesapeake Celtic Festival	Snow Hill, MD	Oct 5th-6th
Radford Highlanders Festival	Radford, VA	Oct 12th
Central Virginia Celtic Festival & Games	Richmond, VA	Oct 26th-27th
Scottish Christmas Walk	Alexandria, VA	Dec 7th