

# ROBERTSON'S RANT

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



## STRUAN RETURNS—1726

By James E. Fargo, FSA Scot

English-Scottish relations after the 1707 Treaty of Union were strained at best. The imposition of new customs and excise duties on a wide range of commodities (including beer, home salt, linen, soap, etc.) previously untaxed was very unpopular. The previous level of taxation was not enough to cover the costs of the civil government. The English rightly believed that the Scots were evading taxation because of the enormous scale of smuggling and revenue fraud going on. Recent research has been able to confirm the scale of this evasion on one product. Between 1707 and 1722, Scottish Glasgow merchants managed to evade duty on half of their tobacco imports from Virginia and Maryland.

Efforts along the coasts by the Board of Customs to collect unpaid taxes on goods arriving by ships and found hidden in warehouses were met with violence against the customs officials. London needed custom revenue to pay down their National Debt which had grown to finance the Spanish Succession War which ended in 1713.

In July 1724, King George I appointed General George Wade the new Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Forces in Scotland. That same year, the English government of Sir Robert Walpole decided to implement a malt tax on Scotland to begin in June 1725. This attempt to generate more revenue raised the cost of ale and created a wave of popular anger with riots breaking out throughout the major cities. In Glasgow, the residents took revenge by burning and looting the home of the local Member of Parliament and engaged in a pitched battle with the local garrison. The garrison was forced to retreat towards Dumbarton. General Wade with a force of 400 dragoons and additional foot troops had to be called in to restore order.

The next year, Alexander (our 13th chief) returned home after about ten years of exile in France resulting from his participation in the Jacobite Rising of 1715. Welcomed home by his clanfolk, our chief settled back to enjoy the revenue from his estates that had actually had been conveyed to his sister, whom he called 'Black Margaret'. He had to travel to Badenoch where his pardon was delivered to him by General Wade at his headquarters. Living a quiet life at Carie, he remained in contact with Jacobite supporters and became involved in initiating agricultural and forestry changes to improve the income of his tenants and clanfolk.

The Government sacked the Secretary for Scotland (the Duke of Roxburgh) who was in charge of the Scottish civil government. Archibald Campbell (Earl of Islay), younger brother of the Duke of Argyll was appointed as his successor to manage

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## ROBERTSON'S RANT

### STRUAN RETURNS—1726 (CONTINUED)

Scottish civil affairs. Military affairs were managed by General George Wade who initiated a military road system to allow the Highlands to be policed by English soldiers with the ability to move these forces quickly to quell any trouble with the clans. General Wade contracted with our chief for timber from the Black Wood of Rannoch for construction of bridges and barracks throughout Atholl. They became good friends even though their political viewpoints differed.

The Earl of Islay, later Duke of Argyll, delivered political stability in return for patronage and the authority to govern Scotland without interference and he promised the full support of the Scottish Members of Parliament in supporting Walpole's Westminster government. The Earl filled two-thirds of the judgeships in the Court of Sessions, appointed sheriffs and filled other positions of authority with family, sons-in-laws and other patronage linked clients. This time honored system of patronage continued beyond the Jacobite period.

In addition, British needs for military service drained the young manpower of the clans. Scottish regiments were raised to serve in the Seven Years War (1756-1763) and the American Revolution. Their payroll and military supply contracts brought prosperity to Scotland and lessened the distrust between Scots and English to the Union.

By the time of the 1784 Disannexing Act, the social contract between the clans and their chiefs had destroyed the traditional agricultural way of life. Increased opportunities for clanfolk to succeed in commerce and venture overseas to English colonies and Europe led to a migration out of the clan area while changes in landholding laws to eliminate the small landholder and make way for more profitable sheep.

Duncan Robertson of Drumachuine became our 14th chief in 1749 as Alexander had no direct male heir. Because Duncan had also been 'out' in the '45, the clan estates were confiscated and not restored until 1784 to his son, Colonel Alexander Robertson (15th chief) of the Scots Brigade.

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## SCOTS HUMOR

Courtesy of Andrew Fargo

### *Canny Scot*

A Scotsman walks into a bank in London and asks for the loan officer. The Scotsman says he is going to Europe on business for two weeks and needs to borrow 5,000 pounds. The bank officer tells him the bank will need some kind of security for such a loan, so he hands over the keys to his new Rolls Royce, which is parked on the street in front of the bank. Everything checks out, and the bank agrees to accept the car as collateral for the loan. An employee drives the Rolls into the bank's underground garage and parks it there.

Two weeks later, the Scotsman returns, repays the 5,000 pounds and the interest of 15 pounds. The loan officer says, "We are very happy to have had your business, and this transaction has worked out very nicely, but we are a little puzzled. While you were away, we checked you out and found that you are a multimillionaire. What puzzles us, is why you would bother to borrow 5,000 pounds."

The canny Scot replied, "Where else in London can I park my car for two weeks for only 15 pounds?"

## 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:

**Andrew Hart**

**Patrick Macrae**

**J. Mott Robertson II**



With no games to report on and no recent games photos, here's a fine photo from 15 years ago at the May 2005 Colonial Highland Games in Fairhill, Maryland. L to R: Angie Erauth, Norman Dunkinson, Ron Bentz, and Sam Kistler.

## FESTIVALS CANCELLED

By Jim Fargo

On March 28th, the clan van was scheduled to arrive and host a clan tent at the Sedalia Center in Bedford County, Virginia for the first time. This would have been the 3rd year for this festival.

On April 25th, we were scheduled to arrive at the Jefferson-Patterson Park in Saint Leonard, Maryland for the 42nd annual Southern Maryland Celtic Festival.

Due to the corona virus health threat, both festivals were cancelled for this year. This was done to protect the health and safety of our friends, families, volunteers, fans, artists, vendors, athletes, and our community which is our number one priority.

We concur with the decision of both organizations. Hopefully both of these festivals will be held in 2021. We hope to see you there!

*Postscript: the following festivals are also cancelled: **Garrett County Celtic Festival (June 6th); Cumberland Valley Scottish Games (June 13th).***

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### REIGN OF KING WILLIAM THE LION (1165-1214)

A Continuation of the "Royal House of Dunkeld" Article Series by James E. Fargo, FSA Scot

William (born 1143) became King of Scots in December 1165 on the death of his older brother King Malcolm IV. Their grandfather was King David I, youngest son of King Malcolm Canmore. Their father Henry, who was the heir apparent, died in June 1152, a year before King David's death in May 1153. William was not known as 'the Lion' during his lifetime but received this sobriquet because he had adopted the red lion rampant on a yellow field as his standard which later became the basis of the Royal Standard of Scotland.



King William the Lion (from [www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com))

King William was an effective monarch and improved the feudal administration of Scotland. However, William was obsessed with the goal of regaining Northumbria. In 1158, William offered military assistance and joined the campaign under the Henry's standard in his French wars with the hope of getting Northumbria back. Rebuffed, and still resenting the loss of Northumbria, William concluded a formal alliance in 1165 with France, which became known as the 'Auld Alliance'. In 1166, Earl Malcolm (second earl) gave the tithes from the Church of Moulin to Dunfermline Abbey for "the safety of his soul and his predecessors". King William was a witness to his charter.

In September 1173, the Scots under William invaded the north of England to help Prince Henry, 'the Young King', in his rebellion against his father (King Henry II) and regain Northumbria which the Prince had promised to return to him for Scottish assistance in gaining the English throne. Scottish claims to Northumbria had been lost to England in 1157 during the reign of Malcolm IV.

The Scottish army proceeded to lay waste the north of England. An English army drove the Scots back across the border, devastated the whole of Lothian with fire and sword and forced King William to sue for a truce until January 1174.

The Earl of Atholl at this time was Earl Malcolm, son of Malcolm the brother of King Duncan II, and grandson of King Malcolm Canmore from his first marriage. Prior to 1198, Earl Malcolm was a witness to a charter giving the Church of Logierait to the Abbey of Scone. Logierait was the location of the castle and court of the celtic earls of Atholl.

Earl Malcolm eldest son Henry became the third and last celtic Earl of Atholl on his father's death in August 1198. Henry's legitimate son Constantine predeceased him leaving by his marriage two daughters. On Earl Henry's death in 1211, his two granddaughters each successively became countesses of Atholl and their husbands were earls. Earl Henry left to his natural son Conan the male fief of Glenerochty. Conan was the great-grandfather of our first recognized clan chief, Duncan.

In June 1174, the Scottish army again crossed the border and laid siege to Alnwick castle in Northumbria. The sheriff of Yorkshire achieved a decisive victory with a relief force and in a skirmish, King William was unhorsed, captured

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# INFLUENZA PANDEMICS

By Jim Fargo

There were three influenza pandemics in Scotland and around the world during the 20th century. We are now in our second pandemic of the 21st century.

The most serious pandemic occurred in 1918-19. It was known as the 'Spanish Flu' because the war-time censored media were only allowed to report on the epidemic sweeping the neutral country of Spain. Evidence points to it having begun among civilians and military returning to the ports of Glasgow from military camps in France. It then spread throughout Scotland as the arrivals left the ports and headed to their respective destinations by railway. The rural, inland and isolated areas across Scotland (our clan homeland) suffered less than the urban and coastal areas. The illness arrived in three waves. In early summer 1918 the mildest wave affected mainly the very young, elderly and those already sick. The second wave in the autumn of 1918 attacked a different sector of the population, affecting those aged between 20-40 years old. The third wave in late winter to early 1919 produced the highest mortality rate among a weakened population from years of rationing. The influenza spread down into England and Wales. The epidemic came to a close by the summer of 1919 as those that had been infected had either developed immunity to the virus or had died. The Register General for Scotland report that at least 17,575 deaths in 1918 were registered as influenza but did not include deaths attributed to bronchitis or pneumonia as these may or may not have been caused by the flu. The death toll in the United Kingdom was less than 250,000 and a small fraction of the estimated 50 million people worldwide who died in 1918-1919.

The other two milder pandemics were known as the 'Asian Flu' in 1957 and the 'Hong Kong Flu' in 1968. The outbreak in 1957 was first reported in Singapore in February 1957 and in Hong Kong in April 1957. Five months later this avian influenza A virus (H2N2) was worldwide. Before it ended in 1958 the total estimated number of deaths was 1.1 million.

The 1968 Hong Kong (H3N2) avian influenza virus emerged and resulted in an estimated 1 million deaths worldwide. Most of the deaths occurred in people 65 and older. This virus continues to circulate worldwide as a seasonal influenza A virus and regular flu shots are recommended each year for variations of this virus.

Postscript: In the 21st century, we had our first pandemic in the spring of 2009. A novel influenza A (H1N1) swine virus emerged first in the United States and spread quickly around the world. Few young people had any existing immunity to this new flu but nearly one-third of the population over 60 had antibodies against this virus from prior exposure when young. By June 2009 the World Health Organization declared the H1N1 outbreak a pandemic. A second wave of infections in the fall of 2009 peaked by late November. The World Health Organization declared the pandemic over in August 2010.

The current pandemic is ongoing and no one knows how it will play out. Follow the guidance from the World Health Organization and stay healthy.

*References:*

*Multiple Wikipedia searches.*

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### REIGN OF KING WILLIAM THE LION (1165-1214) (CONTINUED)

and imprisoned at Richmond Castle. This was the second time a battle between the two countries occurred near Alnwick and both times the Scots lost. At the first battle in December 1093 both Malcolm Canmore and his eldest son Edward were killed.

The defeat and capture of King William was catastrophic for the English rebels as well. In July they renewed their allegiance to King Henry II. The Young King lost his right to the English throne and instead his father gave him the dukedom of Normandy to rule. Richard I (the Lion Heart) would become king of England on King Henry's death in 1189. In 1176 Earl Malcolm granted the little monastery or abbey of Dull with its chapels of Foss and Glenlyon to the Prior of Saint Andrews. This grant was confirmed by the Bishop of Dunkeld.

Taken in chains to Normandy, King William was forced to sign the Treaty of Falaise surrendering Scotland to King Henry as an absolute fief, pay homage to Henry as his overlord and promise that the Scottish nobles would follow suit. He also had to surrender the castles of Edinburgh, Stirling, Roxburgh, Jedburgh and Berwick and pay for the cost of maintaining those English soldiers who garrisoned these castles. After William's release from English captivity in 1178, he founded Arbroath Abbey and dedicated it to the martyred Archbishop St. Thomas of Canterbury.

In 1179 and 1187 and again in 1211 and 1212 the grandsons of King Donald II rebelled in attempts to regain the throne. The elder grandson was killed in 1187 and the younger was captured and executed in 1212. Earl Henry was one of the commanders in putting down the 1211 rebellion.

In 1185, William bought back the sovereignty of Scotland for 10,000 silver merks from Henry's son Richard. This was about ten percent of William's total annual income from taxes and fees. Richard needed funds to finance his participation in the Third Crusade to the Holy lands. On King Henry's death in 1189, King Richard recognized Scotland as an independent nation in the 'Quitclaim of Canterbury' but not to its claims to Northumbria.

On William's death in 1214 after almost forty-nine years on the throne, he was buried at Arbroath Abbey and his son became King Alexander II at the age of sixteen. Earl Henry was at King Alexander II's coronation at Scone. In 1216, Conan of Glenerochie granted the abbey of Cupar the use of these woods which he had inherited from his father Earl Henry of Atholl.

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## BLACK PARLIAMENT—1320

By James E. Fargo, FSA Scot

April 6, 2020 marked the 700th anniversary of the signing of a document now known as the Declaration of Arbroath. This August also is the anniversary of the 'Black Parliament' of 1320.

On December 22, 1319, England and Scotland agreed to a truce that was to begin on January 1, 1320 that was to last for two years and stop the cross border raiding and destruction. In the first month of the truce, King Edward II persuaded the Pope to issue a Bull to require Bruce to attend him in Avignon to answer for his misdeeds. Bruce refused and the Pope commanded the Archbishop of York and Bishops of London and Carlisle to repeat notices of excommunication against Bruce and against the Bishops of St. Andrews, Dunkeld, Moray and Aberdeen.

The Scottish response to this papal provocation was the Declaration of Arbroath. Probably written by Bernard Linton, the Abbot of Arbroath, it was sealed with the seals of eight earls and thirty-one barons on April 6, 1320 and delivered to Pope John XXII at Avignon. It promised to "go to the relief of the Holy Land if the King of England would leave us in peace..." It had the desired effect and the Pope send a stern letter to King Edward II exhorting him to make peace with the Scots so that both countries could support his planned crusade to the Holy Land.

King Robert's second wife Elizabeth gave birth to a daughter, Margaret, later that year.

Negotiations between both countries dragged on and were finally abandoned as the English would not recognized Scotland's independence.

That summer, he was alerted to a plot against him by a Scottish nobleman living in England. Murdoch of Menteith revealed that the plot was to kill Bruce and place Sir William de Soulis, the hereditary seneschal of Scotland on the throne. Soulis's mother was a Comyn and this plot was another incident in the continuing alliance between the Balliol/Comyn families against the Bruce supporters.

Sir William de Soulis and his conspirators were seized at Berwick and a parliament, known as the 'Black Parliament', was summoned to meet on August 4, 1320 at Scone to try the conspirators. Soulis was imprisoned for life. Five of the conspirators were found innocent and released. Six were found guilty and executed. Sir David Brechin, who had fought on the English side at Bannockburn and been forgiven by Bruce, was one of the barons who had signed the Declaration of Arbroath. For his treachery he was condemned to be drawn behind horses through the streets of Perth, then hanged and beheaded.

In February 1321, despite the truce still in effect, the Pope frustrated with the lack of progress again directed that all invaders of England should be excommunicated. It did little good, as the Scots took advantage of civil strife against King Edward II in England to raid across the border in January 1322 when the truce ended.

Pope John lifted the excommunication of Bruce and acknowledged him as the King of Scots in January 1324. Scottish independence was not recognized by England until the Treaty of Northampton was signed by King Edward III on May 4, 1328.

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Multiple Wikipedia searches.



The Declaration of Arbroath (from [drcallumwatson.blogspot.com](http://drcallumwatson.blogspot.com))

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## ROBERTSON'S RANT

### GENERAL WADE'S MILITARY ROADS

by James E. Fargo, FSA Scot

Road networks in Scotland came about informally through linking trading and drove routes and formally as lines of communication for armies of occupation. When the military road builders arrived in Scotland, they took advantage of the commercial and drove routes which converged on Crieff and Falkirk. Roads were also built to connect forts and barracks sited to control the population.

After the second Jacobite rising of 1715, the English government decided that the highlands must be secured to prevent another rebellion. In July 1724, King George I appointed General George Wade, the Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Forces in Scotland. General Wade decided to initiate a military road system to allow the Highlands to be policed by English soldiers with the ability to move these forces quickly to quell any trouble with the clans. He was in Scotland from 1724 to 1737 and during that time saw the construction of four roads totaling about 250 miles which formed the skeleton of the eventual system of about 1,000 miles. His successor, surveyor William Caulfield, continued the work over the next thirty years. Two of these four military roads passed through Clan Donnachaidh territory.

In 1725, Alexander (our 13th chief) was pardoned and permitted to return home after ten years of exile in France. To allow for his return, his former estates had been granted to his sister Margaret by charter under the Great Seal of King George I in 1723. Our chief traveled to Badenoch where his pardon was delivered to him by General Wade. After Margaret's death in 1727, Alexander set about developing a forestry business and (according to John Sinclair's book) implemented agricultural improvements he had observed during his exile in France and Holland to increase yields and income. General Wade contracted for timber from the Black Wood of Rannoch for construction of bridges and barracks throughout Atholl. They became good friends even though their political viewpoints differed.

Margaret's creditors sued our chief for payment of debts. Managing to forestall these creditors on many occasions, they eventually applied for military assistance to get paid. General Wade's successor as Commander-in Chief for Scotland, General Guest, declined to intervene.

During the period of 1728 to 1730, the first road went from Dunkeld north through Blair Atholl and on to Dalnacardoch, the Drumochter Pass and on the Inverness. The second traveled from Crieff northward through crossing the Tay River at Aberfeldy, Loch Tummel and ended by connecting with the other at Dalnacardoch.

These roads were built entirely by military labor. In the summer of 1728, work began in the one hundred mile road which would become known as the Highland Road from Dunkeld to Inverness. One party of about 150 soldiers worked south from Inverness while the other moved north from Dunkeld. This road was finished in 1730 and is now basically the current A9 highway. It passed through Pitlochry, Faskally, and the pass at Killiecrankie and then went to the north around behind Blair Castle. Several miles north of Blair Atholl at Pitagowan and Calvine, Wade departed from the traditional military route to the north. Several miles onward, the road leaves Atholl at the Drumochter Pass.

The second military road that went through clan country (built during 1730-33) began at Crieff and passed through Aberfeldy where the famous Tay Bridge was begun on April 23, 1733. That summer Wade stayed at Weem during its construction. At this time, General Wade authorized the establishment of the Black Watch, named for its dark tar-



## GENERAL WADE'S MILITARY ROADS (CONTINUED)

tans. Recruited from native highlanders, they first met in the field by the bridge in 1733 as six independent armed highland companies. Their assignments were to enforce the Disarming Act of 1725, stop the plundering of cattle and reprisals between rival clans, and keep the peace. In October 1739 these companies were embodied into a regiment, officers appointed and four more companies were authorized. In May 1740 these ten companies were mustered at Aberfeldy by the Tay Bridge. They were initially numbered the 43rd Regiment but later renumbered the 42nd.

That same year the Tummel Bridge was built over the Tummel River and the road headed north past Trinafour ten miles (crossing bridges built over the Errochty Water and the Garry River) to join up with the first road near Dalnacardoch.

Too old to actively participate in the 1745 Rising and after the disaster of Culloden Moor, our chief managed to live in peace at Carie until his death on April 28, 1749. Rannoch Barracks at the western end of Loch Rannoch was built to house soldiers stationed there to patrol the lawless country on Rannoch Moor and the north side of Loch Rannoch after the Rising. Ironically, this became the last home of our chiefs before being sold in 1926.

This old refrain sums up the success of Wade's road building program.

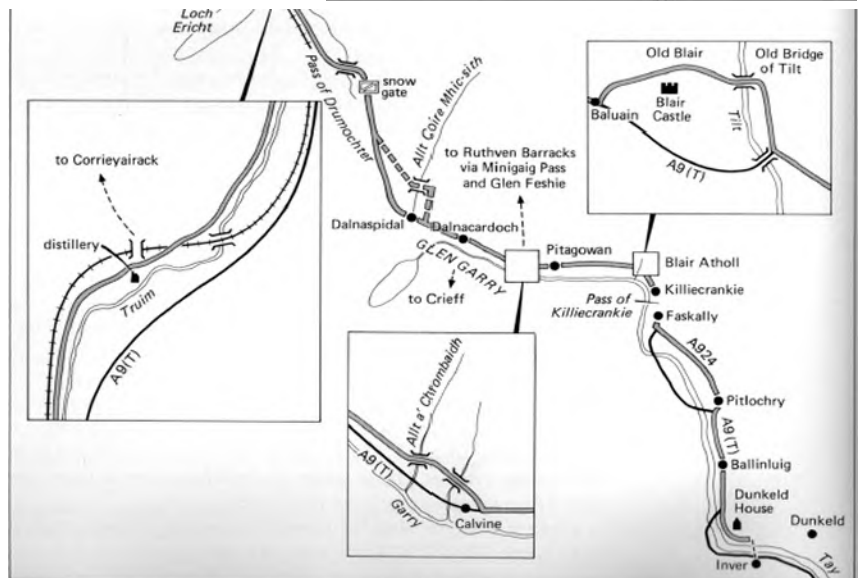
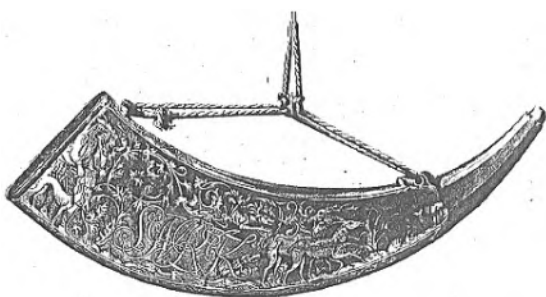
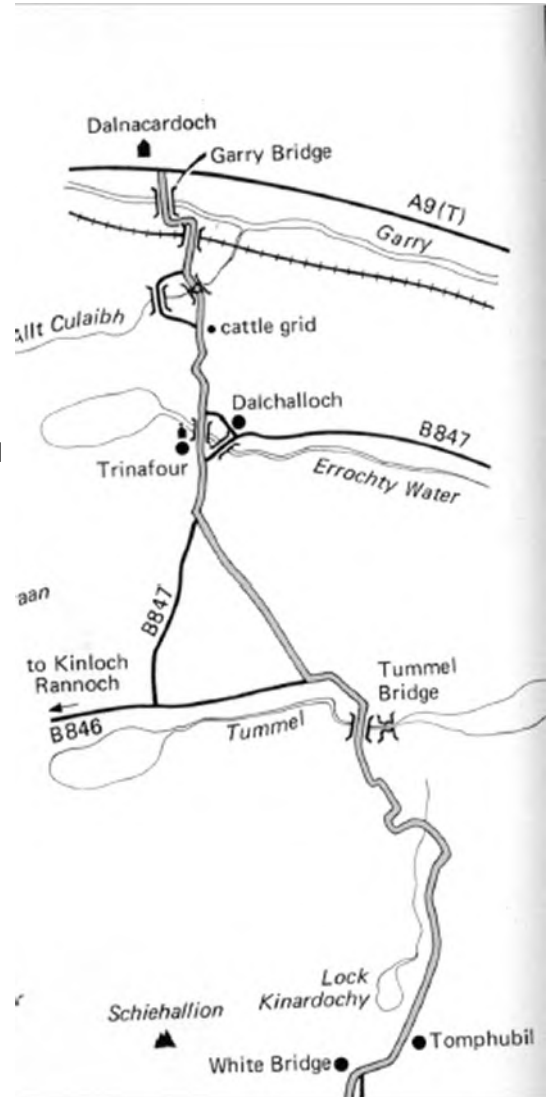
"Had you seen these roads before they were made,  
You would lift up your hands and bless General Wade."

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*Sinclair, John, "Schiehallion", Stirling, 1905, p. 39.*





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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—2020 (MIDDLE PORTION OF GAMES SEASON)**

<u>Event Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>
Celtic Fling & Highland Games	Manheim, PA	Jun 27th-28th
Celtic Weekend	Manheim, PA	Aug 22nd-23rd
Green Hill Highland Games*	Salem, VA	Aug 29th
Virginia Scottish Games & Festival*	The Plains, VA	Sep 5th-6th
Fort Highland Games	Fort Loudon, PA	Sep 5th-6th
Covenanter Scottish Festival*	Quarryville, PA	Sep 12th
Edinboro Highland Games & Scottish Festival*	Edinboro, PA	Sep 12th

\*Clan tent at games or presence at event

\*\*\*\*\*Please check games websites for information on COVID-19-related cancellation or postponement\*\*\*\*\*