

# ROBERTSON'S RANT

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



## OFFICER ELECTIONS

By Norman Dunkinson

It has been many years since we've held elections for officers and it is time that we do so. Given the COVID-19 pandemic, elections will be held virtually and via a voting form link to the branch website at [www.robertson.org](http://www.robertson.org).

The process will essentially be in four stages: 1) nominations; 2) publication of nominees; 3) voting; and 4) communication of election results.

At this stage, we are seeking nominees. If you wish to stand for the office of President, Vice President, or Secretary/Treasurer, please send an email to me to that effect by Tuesday, November 17th. If you wish to nominate another member, please confirm with that individual first that he or she will accept nomination. You may also nominate yourself.

Please note that you must be a paid member to vote and to hold office. We understand, of course, that the COVID pandemic may have financially impacted our members and their families, and have therefore refrained from removing non-paying members from the newsletter distribution list (as mentioned in the last *Rant*). That said, this would be a great time to pay annual dues if you can and if you wish to vote or hold office. A full list of current paid members is included in this edition of the newsletter (see page 3), and the membership renewal form has been distributed with this newsletter as well.

Here is a brief description of each office:

**President:** primary liaison with the parent society in Scotland; represent the branch in its dealings with the Scottish Clan community in the United States; recruit and welcome new members and conveners

**Vice President:** assist the President in his/her duties

**Secretary/Treasurer:** maintain branch bank account and financial records; maintain membership roster; create and publish the newsletter on a quarterly basis; partner with the webmaster to update and maintain branch website content; maintain inventory of t-shirts, books, and other items; arrange and pay for branch attendance at highland games

It would be great to have as many members as possible participate in the election process, so please check your membership status and, if necessary, complete and mail the membership renewal form. And again, please email me at [ngdiv@verizon.net](mailto:ngdiv@verizon.net) with nominee names by Tuesday, November 17th.

Yours Aye,  
Norman

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 4

OCTOBER 2020

### Branch Officers

President:

Sam Kistler

Vice President:

Ron Bentz

Secretary/Treasurer:

Norman Dunkinson



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## ROBERTSON'S RANT

# ABORTIVE RISING OF 1719

By James E. Fargo, FSA Scot

In 1718, Spain was engaged in the War of the Quadruple Alliance against Britain. Just three years after the failed rising by the Earl of Mar, the Spanish government entertained the idea of restoring the catholic House of Stuart to the English throne and diverting English forces from the Mediterranean. They invited James Frederick Edward Stuart (son of King James II) to Madrid.

In March 1719, the young King James III of England (who preferred to be known as the Chevalier de Saint George) arrived in Madrid where King Philip V and the Spanish court received him and acknowledged him as King of Great Britain. Two months later he was married at Avignon by proxy to Princess Clementina Maria, granddaughter of John, King of Poland. A fleet of five men-of-war and about twenty transports were made ready to embark about five to six thousand soldiers plus weapons to arm Scottish supporters. The plan was to capture Inverness and allow an allied Swedish naval force to disembark and restore the Stuarts to the throne.

The Spanish fleet encountered a severe Atlantic storm and the resulting damage to the fleet compelled most of the fleet to return to their native ports. Only two frigates with about three hundred Spanish marines reached the rendezvous at Stornoway in the Isle of Lewis.

Led by William Murray (Marquess of Tullibardine), his brother Lord George Murray, William Mackenzie (5th Earl of Seaforth) and George Keith (10th Earl Marischal) they moved on to Kintail where Seaforth raised the men of his own clan and set out to capture the city of Inverness. They left their supplies and equipment guarded by forty Spanish marines at Eilean Donan castle. A British naval squadron captured and destroyed the castle on May 10th, blocking any escape by sea.

The Jacobite path to Inverness was blocked by General Joseph Wightman with about 850 regular troops, 100 dragoons with some support from loyal clans: Munro of Culcairn, Ross and others. On the afternoon of June 10, the Jacobite forces fortified a hillside position in Glen Shiel and awaited the English attack. After a mortar bombardment on the Jacobite defensive positions the English troops attacked with grenades and by nightfall the battle was over. Overnight the highlanders had abandoned their positions and dispersed. The next morning with the highland levies gone the Spanish troops officially surrendered and were eventually shipped home. The Scottish leaders managed to get rescued by ship and returned to France.

Postscript: According to Jesse (page 70) the expedition was headed by the Duke of Ormond and that "...most of the gallant gentlemen who had remained exiles since the insurrection of 1715 took part in the enterprise." None of our published histories mention Alexander, our exiled clan chief, as having been a participant in this enterprise. As a colonel in the Scots Brigade in France and part of the exiled court, he would have been aware of the attempt. If he was on the expedition, he might have been aboard one of the ships that were damaged by the storm and had to return to port.

### References:

Jesse, John Heneage, *"Memoirs of the Pretenders and Their Adherents"*, London, 1845, Vol. 1, pp. 69-71.

Multiple Wikipedia searches.



James Francis Edward Stewart (King James III).  
Image from [en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org).

## CURRENT MEMBERSHIP LIST

Membership has declined this year with the impact of COVID-19 and the inability of members to attend games and pay annual dues. As of this writing, only 20 members have paid dues in the last year and 5 memberships expire in October:

<b>Ronald E. Bentz</b>	<b>Sara J. Boehm</b>	<b>Nancy M. Carnan</b>	<b>Norman G. Dunkinson IV</b>
<b>Richard P. Fink</b>	<b>Kathy Fraser</b>	<b>Morris A. Gordon</b>	<b>Andrew R. Hart</b>
<b>Robert C. Land</b>	<b>Karen S. Layne</b>	<b>Carol A. Lucian</b>	<b>Patrick E. Macrae</b>
<b>Pamela E. Neill</b>	<b>James A. Roberts</b>	<b>Howard R. Robertson</b>	<b>John C. Robertson</b>
<b>J. Mott Robertson</b>	<b>Harry L. Robertson Jr.</b>	<b>Marvin L. Robertson</b>	<b>Ripley F. Williams</b>

Please also note that those individuals with a Life membership in the parent society are considered Life members of the branch. Our records show that these 27 individuals are:

<b>Lisette Burwasser</b>	<b>Jane R. Dunshie</b>	<b>Andrew J. Fargo</b>	<b>Edward B. Fargo</b>
<b>James E. Fargo</b>	<b>Philip G. Graessle II</b>	<b>Carolyn T. Grund</b>	<b>Eric D. Jackson</b>
<b>Robert C. Land</b>	<b>R.H. Langley-Wood</b>	<b>John D. Lentz</b>	<b>Dorothy R. Mack</b>
<b>Robert E. McRobbie</b>	<b>Jack A. Reid</b>	<b>William M. Reid Jr.</b>	<b>Steven C. Reynolds</b>
<b>George Robertson</b>	<b>J.W.P. Robertson</b>	<b>James P. Robertson</b>	<b>Kenneth K. Robertson Jr.</b>
<b>Margaret J. Robertson</b>	<b>Chester J. Robertson</b>	<b>Craig G. Robertson</b>	<b>Reuben B. Robertson</b>
<b>Ellen V. Sayers</b>	<b>Marjorie S. Wells</b>	<b>Elizabeth H. White</b>	

If you are a Life member of the parent society and your name is not listed above, please let us know so we can validate with the parent society and update our records (email Norman Dunkinson, Secretary/Treasurer, at [ngdiv@verizon.net](mailto:ngdiv@verizon.net)).

## SCOTS HUMOR

*Just Like an Englishman!*

A man walks up to a sheep herder and says, "If I can tell you exactly how many sheep you have down there, can I keep one?" The Scot glances at the vast array of sheep, snickers, and says, "Aye".

The man looks carefully at the sheep herd, then says "5,279". The Scot, startled, says "How in heaven did ye do that?"

The man says, "I'd rather not say. Can I have my animal?" I guess so", says the Scot. The man picks up an animal and starts to walk away.

"Wait!" yells the Scot. "If I can guess where you're from, will ye give me back my animal"? The Englishman snickers, and says "Sure."

"You're from London," says the Scot. The man, startled, says "How did you know that?"

The Scotsman replied, "I'd rather not say. Can I have my dog back?"

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## ROBERTSON'S RANT

### WENDELL S. "SMITTY" WOODLAND JR. OBITUARY

Wendell S. "Smitty" Woodland, Jr., 76, of East New Market passed away on Sunday, October 4, 2020 at UMSMC at Dorchester. He was born in Cambridge on December 13, 1943 and was a son of the late Wendell S. Woodland, Sr. and Paula Murrell Woodland.

Mr. Woodland graduated from South Dorchester High School class of 1962. He married the former Lois West, who passed away on September 2, 2013. Mr. Woodland worked at the Eastern Shore State Hospital with 32 years of service. He enjoyed going to the Scottish festivals, riding his motorcycle, going to the flea markets and helping his son on the farm. Mr. Woodland also liked collecting albums and CD's. He was a member of Scottish Clan Donnachaidh.

He is survived by a son Michael Woodland and wife Dawn of Woolford, a daughter Wendy Macer and husband Darnell of East New Market, seven grandchildren Michael Woodland, Jr., Samantha Woodland, Sydney Woodland, Trinity Woodland, Justin Macer, Dasaiya Macer and Serena Macer and several cousins.

A graveside service was held on Friday, October 9, 2020 at 1 pm at Dorchester Memorial Park with Rev. Steve Bloodsworth officiating.

*Smitty was a Life member of the parent society and a branch member for over 15 years. He attended highland games throughout Maryland and was a mainstay at the Fair Hill games. He was soft-spoken, kind, and gracious, and will be missed by all of us—Norman Dunkinson.*

### SHRINER DONATION APPEAL

The Caverns Shrine Club is pleased to announce that we will be hosting our second annual "Shriners, Caroling in the Caverns" this December at the Luray Caverns. Local choir and musician groups will prerecord seasonal music for a virtual performance.

We are again seeking sponsors to help raise money for what has been called "The World's Greatest Philanthropy", Shriners Hospitals for Children. Our 22 hospitals across North America provide specialized treatments and care for orthopedic, cleft lip and palate, and burns. No child or their family ever pays at Shriners Hospitals. As always, 100 percent of the net proceeds from "Shriners, Caroling in the Caverns" will be donated to our hospitals to help them continue to provide state-of-the-art treatment and research. Shriners are all volunteers and we receive no pay for our services. Thanks to our donors, last year's "Shriners, Caroling in the Caverns" musical event raised \$14,000 which was given to Shriners Hospitals.

Donors will receive mention during our performance program, and be included whenever possible in our print, radio and social media advertising.

Donors will be listed by donation levels as follows: Platinum - \$1,500 and above; Gold - \$1,000 and above; Silver - \$500 and above; Bronze - \$250 and above; Patron - \$100 and above

For further information about this year's virtual performance and the latest Virginia Covid-19 guidance, please follow our Facebook page: [CavernsShrineClub](#).

As always, we Shriners of the Caverns Shrine Club appreciate your patronage and support for Shriners Hospitals for Children.

## REIGN OF KING ALEXANDER III (1249-1286)

The final installment in the “Royal House of Dunkeld” Article Series by James E. Fargo, FSA Scot

On his father’s death in July 1249, eight year old Alexander was crowned at Scone. During his minority, rival Scottish factions vied for control of this government. In June 1250, Queen Margaret, wife of King Malcolm Canmore was canonized as a saint by the Catholic Church and this was seen as a good sign for his reign. Ten year old Alexander married King Henry III’s eldest daughter Margaret on December 26, 1251.

On attaining his majority in 1259, Alexander III set himself the task of completing his father’s goal of adding the Western Isles to the kingdom. He began negotiations with King Hakon of Norway. When negotiations failed, Alexander sent a force to attack the Isle of Skye. In response King Hakon IV brought a great fleet to Scotland and sailed up the Firth of Clyde. As discussions on a treaty dragged on, a gale drove Hakon’s fleet aground on the beach at Largs which resulted in the October 1263 Battle of Largs. The Norwegian defeat (really a draw) led to the eventual transfer in July 1266 of the Hebrides and the Isle of Man to Scotland by diplomacy with King Magnus (Hakon’s successor) in the Treaty of Perth along with the Scottish payment of a 4,000 marks settlement.

In 1268-1270, David of Strathbogie the ninth Earl of Atholl (known as the Crusader Earl) raised a force of Athollmen and joined the second crusade of King Louis IX of France against the infidels. During the siege of Tunis, many of the Scottish crusaders including the Earl died of the plague in August 1270. Conan’s son Ewen and grandson Angus may have watch the departure of the Earl and his men from Atholl, but there is no record of their participation.

Included in the English host was Robert de Bruce, the elder lord of Annandale and his son, Robert de Bruce. On their return from the Holy Land in 1273, the younger Robert married the young widow Marjorie, countess of Carrick and in her right became the earl of Carrick. Their first son, born on July 11, 1274 was named Robert. We know him as King Robert the Bruce.

On King Henry III’s death in 1272, they journeyed to England for the coronation of the Queen’s brother, Edward I. In 1275, Alexander’s wife died leaving three children. Their daughter Margaret had married King Erik II of Norway in 1281. Unfortunately, the two sons predeceased their father. David died in childhood in 1281 and Alexander died at the age of twenty in 1284. On son Alexander’s death, the succession was now in danger, as the only heir was Margaret’s infant daughter Margaret.

Ewen of Glenerochie was married to Maria and he died prior to October 1284. In 1282, Ewen granted a charter to the monks of Coupar Angus Abbey for his lands of Calziebrochan to be held by the monks for his daughters and their husbands. The Glenerochie estate passed to his nearest heir-male. According to tanistry this could have been a son, brother or male cousin relation. Paton in his book states that Ewen “according to tradition, had several sons, by the eldest of whom (Angus) he was succeeded.” Paton goes on to state that “Angus, who obtained a crown charter of



King Alexander III. Image from [findagrave.com](https://www.findagrave.com).

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## ROBERTSON'S RANT

### REIGN OF KING ALEXANDER III (1249-1286) (CONTINUED)

several lands in Perthshire was succeeded by his son Andrew, designed 'de Atholia' of whom nothing further is known." The name of Angus's wife is unknown.

King Alexander married again in October 1285 in hopes of producing a male heir. This second marriage to Yolande de Dreux from France took place in Jedburgh Abbey.

In March 1286, Alexander held a council meeting at Edinburgh Castle and decided after dinner, to return to Kinghorn on the north side of the Firth of Forth where the Queen was in residence. On a dark and stormy night, Alexander headed home and along the way his horse stumbled on the cliff path and Alexander fell to his death on the rocks below.

Under the system of primogeniture, the only heir was his granddaughter Margaret of Norway who had been born in April 1283 and was only three years old on Alexander's death. Six Guardians were appointed to govern the kingdom during her minority. John, tenth Earl of Atholl was one of the nobles who acknowledged Margaret as Alexander's heir after her birth.

By the Treaty of Salisbury in 1289 and the Treaty of Birgham in July 1290 between King Edward I of England and these Guardians, it was agreed that Margaret should marry King Edward's heir. Again fate intervened. During the ship voyage from Norway to Scotland in May 1290, Margaret became sick and died. Her death ended the dynasty of the Royal House of Dunkeld. It also began the search for a successor from the various claimants to the throne with King Edward I acting as kingmaker and led to the wars of independence from England.

Postscript: The name of Angus's wife is not known. My conjecture is that for Angus's son Andrew to have gained the 'de Atholia' designation to his name, Angus must have married someone with a valid claim as a member of the earldom of Atholl family and this must have added extensive lands to his Glenerochie inheritance. Could this wife have been Lora, half-sister to Patrick the sixth Earl of Atholl? She did dispute the claim of her aunt Fernelith's descendant (David of Strathbogie, ninth earl and her cousin) to the earldom. Would she have done this if she did not have an heir of her own? Andrew's son is known to be Duncan of Atholia, chief of our clan.

#### References:

*Bingham, Caroline, "Kings and Queens of Scotland", New York, 1976, pp. 31-36.*

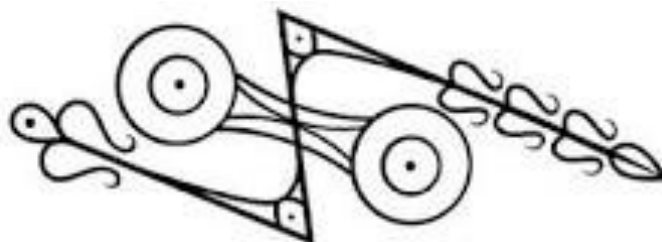
*Cowan, Samuel, "Three Celtic Earldoms", Edinburgh, 1909, pp.*

*Hanley, Cliff, "History of Scotland", London, 1986, pp. 17-20.*

*MacGregor, Gordon A., Clan Donnachaidh Annual, 2007, pp. 9-12.*

*Magnusson, Magnus, "Scotland: The Story of a Nation", New York, 2000, pp. 95-107.*

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



## SCOTLAND'S WAR—BOOK REVIEW

By James E. Fargo, FSA Scot

I recently came across an interesting book, "Scotland's War", by Seona Robertson and Les Wilson that will appeal to Scots and their descendants everywhere. The book recaptures some of the memories of over three hundred World War II veterans that served in the 51st Highland Division. In addition, the book describes the experiences of Scots on the home front during the war and their interaction with the foreigners who flooded Scotland prior to and after D-Day. This short review offers some of the memories provided by just our clanfolk.

Seona Robertson is a daughter of the late Major-General Ian Argyll Robertson of Brackla CB, MBE (1913-2010) and Marjorie (Duncan) Robertson. Ian Robertson was commissioned into the Seaforth Highlanders in 1934 and during World War II served first in the African Campaign then in the Italian Campaign (invasion of Sicily in July 1943 and the Italian mainland in September 1943) before participating in the Normandy landings in June 1944. He became the commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, the Seaforth Highlanders in 1954 and saw action during the Aden Emergency in Yemen.

In 1940, Ian Robertson was adjutant at Fort George when the first 51st Highland Division was captured at Saint Valery. The second Division was reformed from various regiments and became part of General Montgomery's 8th Army against Rommel's Afrika Korps. At El Alamein in October 1942, Donald Robertson remembered that "Everyone was afraid. There's fear in the air above you. There's fear in the round beneath you. There's shelling above you and mines in the ground underfoot." Hugh Robertson remembered that during the assault "I was the sole surviving officer of C Company. It was quite a thought." The Seaforth Highlanders endured ten days of battle before victory and the ensuing pursuit until the Afrika Korps surrendered in May 1943.

Brigadier Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat and chief of the Frasers, was the commanding officer of the First Commando Brigade. Ronnie Williamson served in the Special Boat Squadron that led the first Allied invasion of Sicily on July 9, 1943. Company Commander Donald Robertson and Hugh Robertson of the Seaforth Highlanders were with the invasion force. Alex Robertson, Royal Scots Fusiliers, was in the Anzio landing to outflank the Germans south of Rome. Scottish pipers led the Division into Rome on June 4, 1944.

On the home front in Scotland, there were coastal bombings of factories by the Germans in 1941-2. That didn't deter thousands of women from signing up to work in factories and shipyards. As German submarines were sinking Allied convoys, rationing was implemented throughout the country. It became vital to grow crops to feed the nation and the troops. The Women's Land Army was formed in 1941 and one of the first was Betty Reid, a farmer's daughter from St. Andrews. She remembered that "I won the Royal Highland Society Competition for the best plough-girl in Scotland."

A year later, George Duncan, Assault Platoon of the 1st Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers, was part of the D-Day invasion of mainland Europe and remembered that "There were endless planes flying overhead." while his platoon cleared mines on the Normandy beachhead. Lord Lovat and his piper were among the first to land on June 6, 1944 with his commandos. After VE Day on May 8, 1945, George Duncan remembered "There we were training again for the invasion of Japan. It would have been a murderous adventure. It would have cost a million men. Then who I call Saint Harry Truman dropped the bomb."

*Reference: Robertson, Seona and Wilson, Les "Scotland's War", Edinburgh, 1995. Multiple Wikipedia searches.*



Image from [pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com)

**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).



Bladnoch Distillery, Wigtownshire, Scotland, 2005. Photo by Norman Dunkinson.