



Clan Donnachaidh

Society of the Rocky Mountains

Hairst/Autumn 2023

2023 Council Members

- President - Jim Robertson
- Vice President - Heather Hidalgo
- Treasurer - Lisa Johnson
- Secretary - Nancy Bigley
- Membership Coordinator - Lisa Robertson
- Events Coordinator - Jeff Kohr
- International Liaison - Jim Robertson
- Historian - Rachel Bessette
- Newsletter Editor - Jake Reed
- Webmaster - Pat McConnaughay



Newsletter Highlights

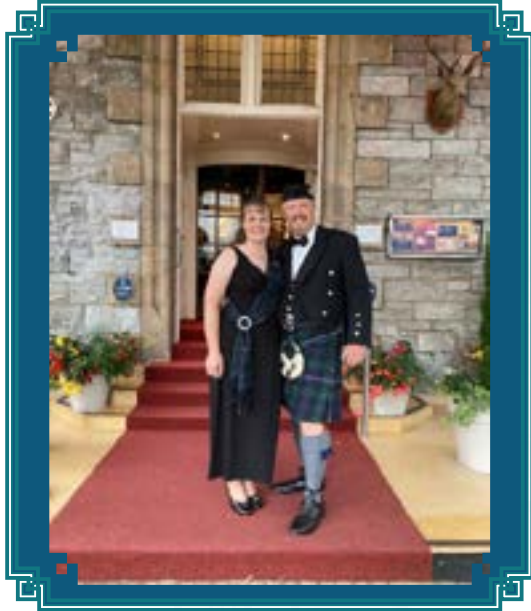
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Calender Events

- **Scots Fest 2023 - Long’s Peak Scottish Irish Highland Festival**
Friday Sept 8 - Sunday Sept 10
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
251 W Elkhorn Ave, Estes Park, CO
- **Fall Harvest Highland Tea Fundraiser**
Saturday, November 4, 1:30 p.m.
St. Brigit’s Episcopal Church, Fredricks, CO
- **Yule Party, December 2, 2023**
AGM - 5 p.m.; Party 6p.m.
10847 East Whispering Pines Dr., Parker, Co 80138
- **Robert Burns Night**
Saturday, January 27, 2024
Details are Forthcoming
- **Sweetheart Highland Tea Fundraiser**
Saturday, February 10, 1:30 p.m.
St. Brigit;s Episcopal Church, Fredricks, CO
- **Colorado Tartan Day Festival**
Saturday, April 13 - Sunday 14, 2024
Boulder County Fairgrounds, Longmont, CO

Renew your membership
Membership Renewal

Frea the President



Rocky Mountain Scots

It has been my distinct honor to serve as President, Society of the Rocky Mountains, for the past five years. During that time, I have been able to surround myself with family and delve deeply into my heritage and come to know the wonderful history of Clan Donnachaidh. So, it is with a hard heart that I step down from the position I have so thoroughly enjoyed. I tender resignation today to take effect on December 31st, 2023. It is time for fresh blood and new ideas. I will remain in loyal support to those who continue to build our legacy going forward.

The memories and highlights are far too many to mention but each one was the result of us coming together, sharing valuable time, and building relationships that will last a lifetime.

The Rocky Mountain Scots have built a strong foundation over the past many years. You know things are going well when other clans vote for you as “best

clan”, you gain a reputation as “the most fun clan” you hear chatter such as “Clan D has the most beautiful women!” and my favorite “I’m tired of Clan D winning everything.” We have had an unprecedented run in the history of our Society. The memories of a packed Clan D tent with the whisky flowing and the battle cry “Fierce when Roused”, capturing the true Donnachaidh spirit, will remain forever with me. I thank you all for entrusting me with such an awesome responsibility.

Applications and nomination for the position of President will be taken anytime through November 24th. The process is a simple voluntary one whereby applicants may put their names forward in writing or verbally to the current President and Secretary. All applicants must be nominated by a current Council member and will be voted on at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in December. Results will be determined before end of year. I encourage anyone with the desire and willingness to lead our Society to submit their name. Formal passing of the Sword will occur at the 2024 Robert Burns Supper.

Slàinte Mhath!

Jim Robertson

President

Society of the Rocky Mountains

Clan Donnachaidh



Frae the Vice President

Hello To All My Clan Members Near And Far



(Edinburgh, Scotland 2023)

I hope that this newsletter finds you well and that everyone has enjoyed the 2023 year so far. As many know or may just be learning, it's been a year of many changes with our Clan members and council seats. Please welcome Jake Reed as our new Newsletter designer. Jim Robertson is stepping down as President as are Lisa Robertson (membership), Jeff Kohr (Events Coordinator) and I as the VP am in a bit of a wonder as to who will be willing to help fill these roles? We really need members to step up and take action to ensure the Clan continues to thrive and



grow. If you might be interested in contributing, hosting a festival tent/time or taking part in a council role please reach out to us. Membership is also down, we need to take action to get our members numbers back up and make being a part of this fantastic organization more meaningful and inclusive. The trip to Scotland for this years Clan AGM shows some very positive changes are coming down the lines. I look forward to seeing what happens next and how this will impact our future membership. As we know there is strength in numbers!

We are hoping to add many more perks and ease of sign up to our members.

Please sign up or renew your membership if you have not already

[Become a Member](#)

[Membership Renewal](#)

I look forward to seeing you all at the Estes Park Scotfest Festival in September.

[Scotfest 2023 Estes Park](#)





Secretary Report

Nancy Bigley

As of July 31st, 2023

(Reported to Council on August 6th, 2023 meeting)

[\(Click to Read Minutes\)](#)



Treasurer Report

Lisa Johnson

As of July 31st, 2023

(Reported to Council on August 6th, 2023 meeting)

Current Fianacials

Wells Fargo Balance Operating
\$3,757.63

PayPal Balance \$239.96

Financials were reviewed in detail with the Council members. The broad strokes are as follows:

- 2023 Robert Burns Dinner – We netted approximately \$1,100 overall. Most of those funds will go to pay for festival costs for the rest of the year.
- We still have a large sum of money in the operating account as we are still ironing out expense details with the RBD venue. Once that is finalized, our account should be greatly depleted.
- Year To Date, we are at a negative income because we took in most of our RBD 2023 income at the end of 2022. That revenue wouldn't show up in the 2023 #s. Once we receive revenue for the 2024 RBD at the end of this year, we will right the ship once again.
- Membership dues are low so far this year but that is expected as most members renew during the Scotsfest in Estes Park, Colorado, and at the end of the year.
- We're also working on an alternative platform other than PayPal. We continue to have federal taxes withheld, even though we are a social club and do not make significant profit.

Membership Report

Lisa Robertson

Hello all. Membership has slumped a little these past couple of years, but we still have the die-hard, active members that seem to show up to everything! It's a great group of crazy Scots. Let's increase our participation and show the other clans how it's done! As we near the end of the festival season, we look forward to a membership bump after the Highland Festival/ScotsFest in Estes Park. Many memberships are gained/renewed in September, as ScotsFest is our biggest membership pull.

Membership helps grow our local and international family. Your support allows us to set up our tents at local festivals and plan clan events. Thank you!

Current Membership:

Local: We have 30 paid memberships accounting for about 46 adults and 14 children

International: We have 22 paid memberships accounting for about 37 adults and 10 children



International Liaison Report

Jim Robertson

There has been a great deal of activity on the Scotland front this past year. Of particular note is the change in Chairmanship of the Council. After 9 years of service, Gillespie had stepped down early 2022 and the search was on to find his replacement which turned out to be a more daunting task than thought. Finally, this year, Jonn Duncan, our International Vice Chair, hailing from the Society of the Gulf Coast, stepped up and took on the role in an unprecedented move of a US member filling the position. Jonn has been actively involved with Scotland as IVC for several years, has developed in-depth knowledge of the Clan and its business activities as well as its cultural and heritage background. We thank Jonn for filling the gap when the Clan was in need. He is a great leader and is already working with the Chief and Council to take the Society to the next level.

2023 Clan Annual General Meeting & Gathering.

This year's Clan Gathering took place 16-20 August primarily in Pitlochry, Scotland although several events took us out onto other parts of Scotland. Eight members of the Rocky Mountain Scots were able to make the journey and attend the Gathering as well as the AGM (See Return to Scotland 2023 for details of our trip). The annual report for the Society of the Rocky Mountains was delivered by President Jim Robertson highlighting many of our events since the last AGM. The Council informed those in attendance of important activities the Clan was involved in, a financial report, and other worthy news. The recently installed Chair, Jonn, took on the role as our AGM was upcoming and did a fantastic job this August

leading the Council during the week full of activities and official business. For those who have never attended the Clan's Gathering, put it on your bucket list!

For those who may be unaware, our very own President, Jim, was nominated and elected to Scotland's Council in 2022. A distinct honor. Scotland holds 2-3 virtual Council meetings per year, keeping all the global societies in touch with the homeland's activities and important issues. Minutes of our most recent meeting are below.

Minutes from the AGM were not yet available at the time of this newsletter and will be published in our next newsletter.

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Sunday 16th July 2023 at 6.00 pm via Zoom

Present:

Gilbert Robertson (Chief)
 Emma Reid (Acting Chair)
 Jonn Duncan (International Vice-Chair)
 Kathy Duncan
 Stephanie Robertson
 Alasdair Robertson
 Emilio Guevara
 Mark Robertson

Apologies:

Suzi McNutt
 Jim Robertson

1. Welcome & Apologies

Emma Reid took the Chair and welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies noted from Suzi McNutt and Jim Robertson.

2. Council Leadership - Approval of Resolutions

Emma reported that following the 25 March Council Meeting, those who had expressed an interest in joining Council and potentially taking on the role of Chair had been contacted. However, this had not led to successfully identifying any one individual to join Council or take on a leadership role.

Emma proposed that Jonn Duncan be appointed to the role of Chair, as is permitted by Article 8.5 of the Articles of Association, and that he be appointed the Society's representative trustee on the Struan Kirk Trust.

Council members approved the following two resolutions:

- To appoint Jonn Duncan as Chair of Clan Donnachaidh Society with immediate effect.
- To appoint Jonn Duncan as the Clan's appointed representative on the Struan Kirk Trust.

Action: Clan Secretary to inform Struan Kirk Trust to remove Iain Donald Reid as a director of the Struan Kirk Trust and to appoint Jonn Duncan as a director of the Struan Kirk Trust.

3. Any Other Business

Potential Partnership arrangements with House of Bruar

Alasdair provided an update on recent discussions.

Honored Clansman Award 2023

Kathy and Jonn undertook to e-mail Council members with proposal for the Honored Clansman Award 2023.

4. Date of Next Meeting

Friday 18th August 2023 at 09.30 am.



Return to Scotland

Jim Robertson 2023

This year marked Alexander Gilbert Haldane Robertson of Struan, 23rd Chief of Clan Donnachaidh's 40th year as Clan Chief and his 85th birthday. It was cause for several of us Rocky Mountain Scots to make the journey, once again, to Scotland in celebration. Eight Society members planned an extended trip that encompassed the Clan's Annual General Meeting and Gathering in Pitlochry. For several of us, this was our 2nd, 3rd and even 4th time making the trek and it won't be our last!



The group included Jim and Lisa Robertson, Jeff Kohr and Pat O'Rorke, Heather Hidalgo, Kathy Robertson, Rachel Bessette and Amber Dobie-Grove. Most of us had ventured out together before, including 2018 for the Chief's 35th year and 80th birthday. So, we knew this would be a very special time together again. This time, the group decided to plan an extended vacation to stretch our legs to parts of Scotland we had yet to discover.

Glenuig 11-15 Aug.

Upon arrival to Edinburgh airport, we managed to secure a van that held all of us and our luggage for the 5-hour journey across the country. This was a huge score as we had originally reserved 2 cars – not as much fun. Being together in one vehicle makes all the difference. We booked the most magical cottage



by the western seashore in the town of Glenuig, just down from the Isle of Skye, with a population you can count on your hand. Not really knowing what we were getting into, it turned out to be one of the trip's highlights as we were surrounded by the unspoiled beauty of the far reaches of Scotland. The cottage was built on a small hill overlooking an inlet off Loch Ailort. We woke each morning to sound of seagulls and the mist coming off the bay only feet away. While in Glenuig, we toured a small part of the coast including the Castle of Tioram, and the remote distillery of Adnumarchin.





As many know, the roads in Scotland are most challenging, often single lane, blind corners and hills, much less driving on the opposite side of

the road and with a manual transmission. This made our travels most interesting as often we hung on for dear life expecting a large lorry, farm combine, hairy coo, or herd of sheep to greet us around every corner. Within only a few miles from the airport, Jeff, our trusty driver, was mastering the roads. It still did

not seem to alleviate the sounds of 6 women gasping for air every time we encountered an on-coming vehicle! We managed to get ourselves onboard the ferry from Mallaig to Ardmere, Skye where



we spent the day sightseeing around Scotland's most infamous island. Stopping off at the Fairy Pools, Talisker Distillery, Dunvegan Castle, and the main town of Portree. Not enough time!

As chance would have it, a pub was located literally next to our cottage – the only one for many miles. We quickly established ourselves as “friendlies” to the locals and enjoyed several pints and drams listening to a local band one evening making promises to each other we'd all be back someday.

Aberfeldy 15-20 Aug.



We chose Aberfeldy as we had passed through the town on previous trips and had admired its charm. The town sits on the River Tay and is large enough to have several restaurants and pubs and



groceries but small enough to walk end to end in only a few minutes. Our BnB was a very nice 5-bedroom stone house with a large kitchen, dining room and library. It was only a 2-minute walk to center of town. Several of us hiked the Birks, a wonderful climb up the river and falls where Robert Burns penned “The Birks of Aberfeldy”, a song lyric, in 1787. He was inspired to write it during a tour of the Scottish



Highlands. From Aberfeldy, we could reach Pitlochry in about 20 minutes, an easy drive to get to the events of the Clan's Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Gathering. The Welcome Reception was special this year as the Chief and Chieftain Alasdair urged the Rocky Mountain Scots to lead the battle cry as it had become very popular 4 years before when the Rocky Scots bellowed it out for all to hear. It has become our Society's moniker and we especially appreciate that Scotland has taken it on wholeheartedly.

Next day was a bus tour to The Scone Palace. What



a magnificent place. Scone was, from at least the 9th century, the crowning-place of the Kings of Scots and home to the Stone of Scone, more commonly referred to as the Stone of Destiny. Kenneth MacAlpin (traditionally known as the first King of Scots), Shakespeare's Macbeth, Robert the Bruce, and Charles II number amongst the 42 kings of Scots inaugurated and crowned at Scone.



Of course, no trip to Pitlochry would be complete without a stop at the House of Bruar where we all shopped along with the rich and famous and ate wonderful things you won't find in too many other places. It is also there where the Clan Donnachaidh museum is and has been well kept and continuously improved upon. Both the museum and House sit along the Falls

of Bruar, a popular spot for Robbie Burns and the very heart of old Robertson lands. That evening, we stopped by Robertson's Spirit Shop for a tasting joined by Alasdair and Council Chair Jonn for a few wee drams. We followed that with dinner at our favorite restaurant, The Old Mill.



The next day the AGM was held and our newly appointed Council Chair, Jonn Duncan, took on the daunting task of coordinating the meeting in a well-ordered fashion to impart the state of the Clan to all. In sum, Clan Donnachaidh is on solid foundation and in very good hands with Jonn at the helm and an enthusiastic Council in support. That evening



we attended the event we had been waiting for, the Chief's Gala at the Atholl Palace, one of our favorite places in the whole world. We arrived, dressed to the nines, and entered this hallowed place feeling like royalty ourselves. The night was simply amazing as we toasted our Chief, dined on Haggis, neeps and tatties, listened to wonderful entertainment and of course,

danced the night away in a traditional ceilidh. The Chief’s dinner is itself a reason to make the trip. Our lassies were absolutely gorgeous and us laddies were lucky to be surrounded by such beauty!

Our last full day in the highlands was spent at the Kinloch-Rannoch Highland Games. This annual festival included several traditional throwing events, a dancing competition, artisan vendors, food and drink



tents and Clan D even had its very own tent set up as the Chief and his family and many Clan members enjoyed the perfect day. To top it all off, our very own Veep, Heather Hidalgo, was once again Queen of the Games as she participated alongside the men in all of the events. The entire Clan cheered her on as she proved her might on the field and came away with 1st place in the women’s division! It was here we said goodbye to our beloved Clan. None of us wanted to leave.

Edinburgh 20-22 Aug.

Sunday morning, we packed up and headed to Edinburgh but not before stopping in at the Aberfeldy Distillery for a wee dram and a souvenir. Edinburgh was alive as the Fringe festival was in full swing and



the Castle esplanade was set up for the annual Military Tattoo. We made our way up and down the Royal Mile in and out of shops, draining our wallets for all those things we didn’t need but couldn’t live without. We stopped at Robertson’s Pub, another favorite spot of course, and had a couple of pints. For anyone travelling to Edinburgh, I highly recommend you do it in

August as the Tattoo is something you cannot miss. The city is filled with ancient and modern history and there are so many things to do. Our time there was, unfortunately, way too short.



One thing is for certain. We will all return to Scotland, most likely many times. For those who have been there, you know. Scotland pulls at your heartstrings, takes your breath away and fills your soul with joy. Scotland is one of those magical places that forever calls you back. It was a wonderful time and we hope many of you will make the journey during your lifetime.





Save the Date!

Clan Donnachaidh Society of the Rocky Mountains

Robert Burns Night

Saturday, January 27, 2024

Details are Forthcoming

A tribute to Scotland's most famous bard.

Dinner, Socializing, Drawings, Ceilidh Dancing, Kilt Line,
Haggis!

The Benefits of Membership

A question that is often raised is “What do I get for the cost of the membership?” A very good question since there are many places you can spend your hard-earned money. Here are just a few.

Local membership dues go to:

-Fees for the 5-7 annual events the Society participates in annually. Each event charges a fee to set up a tent space and this fee can be anywhere from \$35 to \$250+. Events are our largest cost per year.

-Maintenance and upgrade of the Society's trailer, tent, tent materials, event consumables. A large cost each year involves purchasing consumables for the events (i.e., ice, water, scotch, cups, beads and candy). Additionally,

the creatin. Ordering and purchase of new signage or renewing old/outdated materials for the tent can be substantial. Annual registration of the Society's trailer.

-Society's operations costs. Membership cards, mailings, paper and ink, etc

-Access to The Society's newsletter. Our newsletter is typically published twice per year to keep members up to date on what's happening with regard to events, Council activities and other information we want to share.

-Robert Burns Dinner. Cost involved with the basic operations of the dinner are often absorbed by the Society to help reduce ticket costs. Members may receive a small discount on dinner tickets as well.

There are no paid members of the Rocky Mountain Scots. All positions are strictly

voluntary. Above all, membership allows those interested in researching their heritage, enjoying the wonderful cultural history of Scotland and sharing others'

International membership dues go to fund the operations and maintenance of Scotland's Society:

-A Yearly Clan Annual. The Annual includes information about the Clan and reports from the various Clan Branches around the world. Articles relating to clan history, archaeological digs with a Clan connection are featured as well as articles about battles, and various aspects of Scottish life.

-Your dues help to maintain the Clan Centre and Museum which preserves and promotes the Clan's heritage and artifacts. In addition to the artifacts preserved, there is a Reading Room where members can discover more about the Clan, the Society and its history.

-The International Society gives grants to various bodies which have a bearing on the Clan. Examples include sponsorship of the Poet Chief's archery medal at St. Andrews and a Donnachaidh memorial stone at the recently opened Visitor Centre at Culloden.

-The Clan Secretary works in the Clan Centre by answering queries from members and non-members alike, helping to spread the word about Clan Donnachaidh.

-An Annual General Meeting (AGM) is held

each year, attended by Clan members from the four corners of the earth. A report of the year's accomplishments is given and plans for the new year voted on. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet the Chief and his family, Donnachaidh cousins from around the world, and to experience the joy of being in Scotland, to bask in the joy of being "home".

In summary, the job of the Clan Society in Scotland and the Society of the Rocky Mountains here locally, is to maintain the heart and spirit of our heritage. This affords us a unique view of our family roots as more than an excuse to don a kilt. Your annual dues are needed to preserve this evidence of our heritage for our children and grandchildren.



Please Sign up
Or
Renew your Membership if You haven't
Already

Become a Member

Membership Renew

Summer Travels



What a summer! Eric and I are a little exhausted, but it was worth it. Eric and I spent most of May finally enjoying our honeymoon in Ireland. Covid delayed us for 3 years, but we enjoyed nearly three weeks of experiencing all the beauty of the Emerald Isle. We began and ended our trip in Dublin, and from there, we managed a giant circle around the Country, staggering our time between quiet country towns and bustling cities.



All of which, we enjoyed equally. Of course, our first stop was the Tullamore Dew distillery.

The most amazing aspects of the trip were the food, music, and gracious people. Having anticipated rain and wind, we experienced wonderful weather. One of the most wonderful experiences was a privately led 5-mile hike along the Northern, Antrim coast that finished at the Giants Causeway.

Ireland is truly a must-visit destination, full of History and beauty.

But wait, there's more. Eric had a work conference in June in London, shortly following our Ireland trip. I tagged along, and we decided to extend the trip and make another vacation out of it. London is such a condensed city, full of endless historical sites and relaxing parks, it made it easily walkable for us.



While walking around St. James's Park we ran into a fellow Scotsman enjoying the lovely weather.

The food was amazing, and the modern architecture was stunning!

One could easily spend two weeks there and not get to see what all the city has to offer. We really loved London! Eric and I agreed

we'd return and possibly consider an extended stay. On the tail end of our trip, we decided to hop on the speed train over to Paris and Brussels for a couple of days. Both cities were amazing, and we will return to immerse ourselves properly.



Our take on life is it's too short. Get out and see the world!

~ Lisa Johnson Summer 2023

A Brief Thank You

Hello everyone,

I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who participated in Colorado Tartan Day this year. The weather was nice, and it was a fun event. I'd like to shout out to the Buchanan's who volunteered both days helping in the pub.

I am writing to share some news and to ask for some feedback from you. As you know we have tried to focus on the Clans with our Tartan Day event, keeping costs low. We have also kept admission free to the public, to encourage attendance. This year saw our expenses triple, depleting our resources for next year. We also struggle with a lack of volunteers and "active" members. These situations are leading the CTD Council to consider sunsetting the festival permanently. For those of us who have worked so hard to keep this event alive this is not something we take lightly. The simple truth is we only have about a dozen active members (most of us aren't young anymore) and a shortage of funds for next year.

To attempt a festival next year, we would need all the following:

1. Several sponsorships in the thousands of dollars.
2. An increase in registration fees for clans and vendors. Minimum of \$65/space for clans and \$130/space for vendors.
3. Charge admission fees (we currently don't have enough volunteers to staff this).
4. Additional volunteers or active members.

We need to know if you can absorb these increases.

Can volunteer or know people who would volunteer?

Do you know a business or person who would sponsor the event, and are YOU willing to pursue a sponsorship from them? We have sponsorship packages from \$2500 and up.

We need your feedback on these two items, to help us determine how we proceed with the future of Tartan Day.

Thank you for your feedback,

Colorado Tartan Day Council

Travels



Usually my travels tend to be to festivals in Colorado, but this year I headed out of state. Not as glamorous as going to Scotland like some council member, but I started my adventures in October 2022 with my first time in Alabama. I went to visit Hope Charles (Clan Donnachaidh) and Dieter Cameron (Clan Cameron). Their new home was coming along well. It is a short walk to a beautiful river area. I am sure a future purchase of a boat will happen soon. And they added a new addition to their critter fami-

ly. Finn and Lacey welcomed Bronwyn and they are getting along great. Hope and I went to Huntsville, stayed in a 60's themed B&B, saw Stevie Nicks in concert on Halloween Night. Quite the check off the bucket list.

July 2023 found me going to Oakwood, Georgia for a Summer Birthday Bash at Mindy and Dennis Bolen's home (Clan Donnachaidh). Hope and Dieter joined us along with lots of family and friends. Although the weather was rainy, humid, and hot we had a great time. We toured Lake Lanier, went to several great restaurants, Den's grill got a workout, with fresh veggies from Mindy's home-grown garden, we (well they) played several card games, and made it to the Jaemor Farm's Market for some goodies to bring home and fresh Georgia peaches to make homemade ice cream.

So where have other members traveled this year?

~ Nancy Bigley, Secretary, Past President



SAVE THE DATE

Colorado Tartan Day Fall Harvest Highland Tea
 Saturday, November 4, 2023, St. Brigit's Episcopal Church, Frederick, CO

Colorado Tartan Day Sweetheart Highland Tea
 Saturday, February 10, 2024, St. Brigit's Episcopal Church, Frederick, CO

These are both important fundraisers to help make the festival happen in 2024. Watch for more details to come.





Donnachaidh Early History

Used with Permission

By James Irvine Robertson

River names are the most ancient in the landscape and the explorers who named Scotland's greatest river 'smooth and quiet' water were the same folk who first met the Taw in north Devon, the Tavy in Cornwall, the Tyne, and even the Tiber. The early inhabitants began to clear the forests and left signs of their passing in dozens of enigmatically cup-marked boulders, in great stone circles, in tumuli where they buried their dead. But those who named the river Tay are unknown. Their story can never be told, nor that of the hundreds of generations who followed them and called this land their own. Not until the Picts, some two millennia ago, do we have a name for the people who lived here and what follows is mainly an account of the Gaels who supplanted them. They have gone, too, but their genes live on in the modern resident of Highland Perthshire, as do those of the Picts, and their ancient predecessors. The culture and even the language may be changed by successful invaders but the human stock absorbed them and remained much the same.

Kenneth McAlpine made his capital at Dunkeld 1,150 years ago. By then the city already had a history going back three hundred years. When St Augustine landed in Kent to bring Christianity to southern England, St Columba and his missionaries had already converted the Picts and a monastery nestled on the bank of the Tay. The Viking raids down the west coast destroyed the religious settlement at Iona. Half the monks sought refuge in Ireland, the others came to Dunkeld bearing the remains of their founder. Once more the saint's bones were laid to rest but, in the chaos of successive raids by the Norsemen, their location was forgotten. Twice the early abbey was burned and it was damaged several times in later tumults but the current roofless state of much of the building owes itself to a couple of local lairds and their enthusiasm for the destruction and theft of Papist establishments during the Reformation. By then, the 16th century, the variation on the clan system as practised in Atholl was at its peak. This was the country of the Stewarts, Clans Menzies and Donnachaidh. The last of these, the Robertsons, were the earliest recognisable clan between Dunkeld and Dalnacardoch. Their chief can trace his line from the Picts, the old Celtic kings and earls of Atholl, and the kindred of St Columba. In the pleasant phrase to show ancient associations with the district, they were said to be the first to 'make smoke' in these straths. The first seat of the chief was at Struan on a conveniently defensible mound above the river Garry,

some twenty miles north of Dunkeld. Their power began to wane when the line of the old earls died out and the title was won by Robert, High Steward of Scotland. He married a daughter of Robert Bruce and came to the throne as Robert II. The Stewarts, like the Menzieses, came from France, arriving into Scotland in 1136 in the train of King David and his queen, Margaret. Strathtay, Strathtummel and Strathgarry were for centuries dominated by Stewart lairds.

The Stewart line of earls died out in its turn, and the last heiress was won by the Murray earls of Tullibardine. As earls, marquises, and dukes of Atholl, they ruled Atholl until modern times but, although they held feudal superiority over this country, clan and kin loyalties built up over centuries sometimes led the people into conflict with their master. It provided a rich brew to be distilled into history.

Please sign up or renew your membership if you have not already

Become a Member

Membership Renewal

I look forward to seeing you all at the Estes Park Scotfest Festival in September. ~ Vice Pres. Hidalgo

Scotfest 2023 Estes Park

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**Clan Donnachaidh
Society of the Rocky Mountains**

**Annual Yule Party
Annual General Mtg with
Election of Officers**

When: December 2, 2023, AGM at 5 pm; Party 6 pm
Where: Jay Lazorishak & Kathy Robertson hosting
 10847 East Whispering Pines Dr, Parker, CO 80138
PotLuck: Meat will be provided. Please share food item with RSVP. **BYOB**
RSVP: Lisa Robertson, 719-572-6584, lkunesh71@hotmail.com by Nov 30

Don your best Scottish holiday attire and start the Season off right at the Society of the Rocky Mountain's Annual Yule Party!

Good friends, good food, good times!




BUBBLE & SQUEAK PATTIES

Servers: 4

Prep Time: 15 min

Cook Time: 20 min

Method: Stovetop



INGREDIENTS

1lb potatoes, peeled & cut

into chunks

2 c. Shredded cabbage

1 carrot, grated

1/2 shredded sharp cheddar

cheese

Salt & pepper to taste

1. Boil the potatoes over medium heat for about 10 min or until fork tender, drain and mash, set aside.

2. In a medium sauce pan, combine the cabbage and carrots, adding just enough water to cover the bottom of the pan. Cook over medium heat until tender, about five minutes. Drain and stir into the mashed potatoes, along with the onion, mustard, and cheddar cheese. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

3. Shape the mixture into 4 patties. Heat a greased grill pan over medium-high heat and place the patties in the pan. Grill until heated through and golden brown, about five minutes on each side. Serve immediately.

Clan Donnachaidh Society of the Rocky Mountains

Council Meeting 8-06-2023

Attendees: Lisa Johnson, and Nancy Bigley.
Jim Robertson
Lisa Robertson
Kathy Robertson
Jeff Kohr
Becky Robertson

Kathy Robertson hosted us. 2 p.m.

Secretary—Minutes from previous council meeting of 5-21-2023, Approved as submitted by Nancy Bigley.

President's Report—Jim shared the International Council Meeting via Zoom from July 16th, 2023. Specifics will be addressed in each of the additional minutes as appropriate, but it is shared as an additional attachment to these minutes.

Vice President's Report—Heather was unable to attend however sent an email requesting the following be discussed:

- **The PayPal account/dues paid, burns ticket sales, etc. via PayPal and what we need to do to get the account back in our control and what to do as far as getting a Tax ID, Tax exempt status, private foundation,*
- *What are we considered? Private Operating Foundation, Social Club? To have the tax-exempt status. Would like to get the banking/tax part of accounting all straightened out for our Clan society.*

I understand they are holding our money at PayPal until we figure this out!?

- She has the event coordinator procedure manual (binder) and need to get it back to the Clan. Is there one of these for all the Council positions? President,

VP, Membership, treasurer, secretary, Web master, newsletter, Etc.? If not, we should consider it (perhaps not a binder for each but a protocol description for each position that can be put in a binder) especially for the next volunteer(s) coming in, would be very helpful to have a guide as to what duties/expectations are for each position.

- **New Clan Stamp**- Time to get a new one. A new larger more decorative stamp with our Gaelic/English war cry under our crest and larger size.

- **Burns supper plans**—where are we?

Treasurers Report—Lisa Johnson still waiting for response from the Hilton regarding final costs.

Breakdown of Current Financials:

Wells Fargo Balance as of 7/31: \$3,757.63

PayPal Balance as of 7/31: \$239.96

Lisa went through the financials again and forwarded them to Jim for review. They both agree that we made approximately \$1,100 on the RBD.

Year to date we have a negative net income of (4,156.84). The main reason is that we took in most of our RBD 2023 income at the end of 2022. That revenue wouldn't show up in the 2023 #'s. Once we receive revenue for 2024 RBD at the end of this year, we will right the ship as it were.

- There is concern by all of council that hotel has not sent final balance for Robert Burns even though they have been contacted several times since January. • Jim and Lisa will still keep working on this. Do what they can to protect our funds in clan account with Wells Fargo.

- PayPal—There are still tax concerns and confusion. Lisa is going to contact Mindy Bolen to assist with closing the current account. Mindy needs to assist because the account was originally opened in her name. There are some forms that will need

completing. There are new guidelines for what is and isn't taxable.

- Tax exempt status—Jim is going to consult with John Duncan, our National Chair to help with finding out if there is an umbrella tax exempt # and status already available. If not, then any assistance John might be aware of to accomplish this. Another branch maybe has this and can assist with completing forms, etc. Lisa will also continue to follow up as well.

- Recommend that we reorganize the website, taking the current PayPal off the site. When the new one is set-up we can have him update the information.
- Membership dues, recommend these be cash or check only until we can get this sorted out.

- Encourage membership push at Long's Peak Highland Games so we can build up our treasury.

Secretary's Report—Nancy Bigley is looking for the original Guide material but believes these should be in the binder that has the By-laws, the Charter information and includes the descriptions for Officers. However, these will need to be updated to reflect many of the changes. Some duties have shifted, we have large display items, tents, trailer, etc. and we should possibly include pictures to assist people.

Background—Our by-laws were basically the same as International. Membership locally, as with international guides, anyone that is interested in Celtic ancestry is acceptable. No one needs to show "proof" of the lineage to become a member of Clan Donnachaidh Society of the Rocky Mountains. This allows for adoption options as well as interested friends to join us. We can accept anyone interesting in joining us.

Stamp--We also need to check with International for approval/use of wolf heads on the new stamp as several years ago it was requested that we not

use the 3 wolf heads as this was the Chief's family crest. Some branches have received written permission to use the wolf. In the past it was preferred that all the Septs use the crest with the raised hand holding the crown and we should be respectful with a written request if we want to use the wolf head.

Membership—Lisa Robertson: Membership dues: we currently have 26 paid local members and 20 active international members. We need to have a reminder sent to all members to renew. Doing a membership drive.

- We also need to purchase new membership cards perhaps with a different design, easier to read, etc. The council approved Lisa/Jim to create new ones and get them ordered to have to send out after Estes.

- One question that has been raised is "what do I get for being a member". The reality is that the local membership dues, any of the drawing activity funds, any of the sale items such as pub glasses, funds raised locally go to paying our fees for us to represent the Clan Donnachaidh at local festivals (5 annually), the upgrade of display items, the purchase of the trailer to transport the items and cover some basic costs of our Robert Burns Dinners. The newsletter is a way to communicate events and activities and is distributed in Spring and Fall.

- The additional international membership funds go to Scotland to support your membership in Scotland, receive a membership card, and one receives the Annual News Booklet that includes all branches throughout the world.

- We want members to be involved as much as possible so we can represent and participate in the festivals. We hope people also enjoy joining in at our additional events such as our Yule Party, going to Celtic Week at the Colorado Renaissance Festival.

Reminder: Lisa is resigning as Membership chair.

Events—Jeff Kohr: We didn't have representation at CSF this year. We have one final official festival for the year which is Long's Peak Scottish Highland Games, Estes Park, Sept. 8-10. Jim is planning on going up Thursday for the set up. Anyone available to assist is greatly welcomed and appreciated. Please let Jeff know when you might be available to help with the tent throughout the weekend so we have coverage and people can take breaks. Also let us know who will be available for breakdown and packing everything up.

Yule Party is Dec. 2, Jay offered to hold it at his home again this year. And the council accepted.

Not setting up our display tents but other possible events include:

- Thornton Highland Games - Saturday, September 19th, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Thornton Sports Complex, 104th & MacKay Rd., Thornton, CO
- Aztec Highland Games & Celtic Festival, October 7-8, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Riverside Park, Aztec, New Mexico
- Scots on the Rocks, October 20-22, Center Street Ballpark, 250 E Center St. Moab, UT 84532

Reminder: Jeff wants to resign from being the event coordinator. Anyone that is interested in taking this position please contact him. He will work with them about handling the details. This would mainly involve signing up for the 5 festivals we want to represent Clan Donnachaidh at; scheduling the transport of our tent and display trailer, set up at each festival and then break down and return. Jay is willing to transport for us if necessary if the new coordinator doesn't have ability.

Newsletter—Although this falls more under new business, however, we wanted to announce and welcome to council Jake Reed. He is going to take

over the Newsletter. We will get him set up to provide a Fall and Spring newsletter. Please everyone council, members we welcome articles, pictures, etc. Anyone attending festivals or vacations or travels that include any of our ancestral lands, or U.S. events classes, museums, participating in other volunteer events, graduations, engagements, etc. Please let us know what members are doing. Please send to Jake at reed.j.a25@gmail.com

Council members going to Scotland agreed to each write an article and share pictures on their up-coming trip.

Website—Pat also welcomes the same mentioned ideas to include on our website. Share what members are doing throughout the year. Pictures always help. Contact him through the website.

International Liaison—Jim Robertson is writing the Annual Report to Scotland and will include our advertisement. The International AGM in Scotland is August 15-20, 2023, and he is planning to attend. It is the Chief's 85th birthday, and his 40th year as Chef of Clan Donnachaidh.

Historians Report—Rachel Bessette will try to gather some information and write some articles for the newsletter after the trip.

Unfinished Business—

Annual General Meeting (AGM) for 2023.

We need to have one and after discussion it was motioned by Jeff and seconded by Jim that we hold it in conjunction with the Yule Party. We agreed to have the AGM starting at 5 p.m. with our Party starting approximately 6-6:30 p.m. The Agenda will primarily be to vote on Officers for 2024-2026, give brief review of 2024 events, and share any follow up information. Jim Robertson gave us his official notice of stepping down as President. We will vote in new president at the AGM and will officially turn over the responsibilities

at Robert Burns Dinner. The positions voted upon are: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. We will need nominations for each of these positions. Anyone interested in taking these positions please talk with and/or send this to:

Jim Robertson: jamesrobertson64@msn.com or
Nancy Bigley: nabigs50@gmail.com
 by November 24, 2023.

Approved: Trailer wrap and install, Jim will continue to follow up on this. It will be stored at Jim & Lisa Robertson's

Festival participation for 2024: Discussion regarding signing up for festival in 2024. It was agreed to continue with the current five that we typically do. We want to encourage all members to really support these festivals with volunteering at festival and/or Clan Donnachaidh gathering tent.

It was also discussed and voted in agreement that Jeff (and/or new event coordinator) have the permission (coordinate with treasurer) to sign us up as soon as notifications come in that festival registrations are open. This way we can get better selection of location. Festivals we will participate in are:

- Colorado Tartan Day—10x10 and sponsorship currently set for April 13-14, 2024, Longmont, CO
- Pikes Peak Celtic Festival —10x20 and sponsorship, June 14-16, 2024, Colorado Springs, CO

Elizabeth Celtic Festival —10x20, July 20-21, 2024, Elizabeth, CO
 Colorado Scottish Festival—10x20, August 3-4, 2024, Sedalia, CO
 Longs Peak Scottish Irish Games—10x20, September TBD, 2024, Estes Park, CO

Assistance—As always will need assistance in transporting our tents and display items and people volunteering to watch the tent at each festival. Please let Jeff know as each event comes closer. Additional events such as fundraisers and tastings

will be shared as these become available and scheduled.

Yule Party—Nancy will create a flyer and newsletter to share in newsletter and at Estes.

New Business—

Robert Burns Dinner—2024, Council would like to begin looking for location and possible date quickly so we can get it booked and be able to work on details early. All council members will do some research and will present this to the council at our next meeting. Lisa Johnson agreed to chair this committee with Nancy Bigley, Kathy Robertson and Jim Robertson assisting her. Also, Heather has agreed to continue assisting with centerpieces and to make the Haggis for us. We will try to determine the location and date by Estes Park so we can alert people of SAVE the Date, location and to watch for the details through website and/or emails. Nancy Bigley agreed to be MC again and will contact John Root regarding cost of photography. The potential date is Saturday, January 27th, 2024, but finalization will be determined by location availability. If we can get a good rate and location researched may finalize ASAP rather than wait until next council meeting. Then we can work on the fun details.

New Membership Cards: Council voted to create, print, and purchase new membership cards since we need more. Will try to have these available for Estes Park.

New Stamp: Council voted to create and purchased a new stamp for Clan Donnachaidh for the passports.

Bumper Sticker/window Decal: Discussion that this might also be a nice gift in addition to the shot glass to give to new members. And have available to purchase. Jay agreed to research these.

Membership Control: There has been discussion regarding having International to be more involved

with our membership. After several points of discussion including payment of festival registration process and fees, Robert Burns finances, membership fees, challenges currently with PayPal, changes in International and Local officers that at this time it would be detrimental to try to make any major changes in shifting financial responsibilities at this time. The council voted to maintain current responsibilities.

Announcements: Please be aware of Ed and Sharon Roe and Sam Earle's current health situations and keep them in our thoughts.

Next Council Meeting—due to Scotland trip by several council members and Long's Peak Scottish Irish Games & Festival the next full meeting will be Sunday, October 8, 2023, 2 p.m. at Kathy Robertson's home, will bring BYOB and appetizers/potluck.

Adjourned: 4:27 p.m.

