



# Clan Donnachaidh News

ROCKY MOUNTAIN *Branch*

## FRAE THE PRESIDENT

By Nancy Bigley

It was a wonderful night on January 20, 2007 as we toasted, feasted and said tribute to Scotland's legendary bard, Robert Burns at our annual celebration at the Greystone Radisson in Thornton, CO. The room was filled with merriment, friendship, music and humor.

We must say thank you to Kathleen and Mindy for coordinating with the hotel and catering; Charlene, Bob and Donald for their addresses; Dennis S for being our Scotch toastmaster; Dennis B for set up of clan items; Shelli and Hope for the lovely centerpieces; to the Celtic Musicians; Mike Duncan for being our featured artisan; and to all of those who donated auction items: Mindy & Dennis, Shellie & Dennis, Alice Woods, Maureen, Charlene, Sandy & Dick, Cliff & René, Ray & Robin, Mike, and Nancy and, without fail, a big thank you to Ray for his informative and humorous tribute to Robbie Burns!

Thank you to everyone who assisted in any manner with the evening events. Without your donations, hours of coordination and support the evening would have been vastly different.

The best pictures taken at our dinner are being loaded on to the website. Due to the lighting and its effect on the quality of the pictures, we have decided to not use them as a fund raiser this time. Please follow the directions on the website to obtain your copies.

The upcoming year will be focused on adding some new events and trying some new ideas. The website has a new look so be sure to take a look. We want our site to reflect the Rocky Mountain branch so any suggestions are welcome. Please let us know what you might like to see. We are going to be adding things monthly so check it out.

MARCH 2007

### Inside This Issue:

Frae the President	1
Genealogy	2
Burns Supper Recap	3
Clan History	4
Recipes	5
Council Members / Treasurers Report	7-8

We have some new ideas for fund raising. We will be gathering the information on having denim shirts/polo shirts with the crest available this spring. Watch the website for these and additional ideas.

Attention all ladies of our clan, there are two things coming up that focus on us. One is attending the Laddies Serving the Lassie's Brunch on April 22. The other is helping make a wall hanging for a fund raiser. Please see the articles in the newsletter on each of these.

This year, we'd like our annual ice cream social/picnic to have a portion of the time we spend together to include our clan youth. We'll be creating our own "highland" clan games for all ages. We'd like to get some of you to volunteer to help with this event by proposing additional ideas for activities, judging, as well as huggers and cheerers from the side lines so this will include everyone. We'll share the details on the website and our next newsletter.

It's going to be a fun and busy year so we hope to see you often.

Warmly,  
Nancy Bigley, President

## ATTENTION ALL LADIES OF CLAN DONNACHAIDH - ROBERTSON

We would like everyone to participate in making a wall hanging that is clan related. The officers and council thought this might be a good fund raiser for the Burns Dinner in 2008 since all would have a chance at making it. We will be asking you to use your creative skills to help us make this happen.

You can sew, appliqué, embroider, piece together, fabric paint, etc. a square with any thistle design. We'll be giving you some specifics to work within for material and size, but you can use your creativeness to provide the thistle design. After collecting the squares from everyone we'll bind and quilt it. We will be sending you additional information as we finalize the details.

For those of you that are thinking "I want to participate but I don't sew", etc. please do not feel left out. We have a variety of ways you can also assist us with putting this together. We are planning a "just the ladies gathering" to discuss the details, your ideas and just share your company will be just as important to us. If you are interested in participating please contact Nancy Bigley, 303.691.5007 or [nabigley@msn.com](mailto:nabigley@msn.com)



## TO MY DEAR CLAN DONNACHAIDH

Thank you for the engraved flask that was presented to me at the Robert Burns dinner. You couldn't have given me anything that I would enjoy more. I'll fill it and bring it to the next event. I love it!

Becky Robertson

## GENEALOGY

I first knew of the subject in the early 1970s when I read Roots by Alex Haley about his family. Over the years I've dabbled in searching for my family roots and have talked with many people who have done much more research than me, and some who have done none who would like to start.

Due to the large interest in the subject, including new DNA research, there are more places to collect information that I could possibly list without writing a full book. In fact, many have written books that focus only on sources to obtain genealogy information.

After I gathered some basic name/date information from my immediate family members, I learned that the Denver Public Library at 10 W. 14th Ave (14th and Broadway), Western History and Genealogy Department, is very complete and helpful concerning genealogy research, not only in Colorado, but around the United States and around the world.

They offer beginning genealogy classes, at no charge, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., on the second Saturdays of each month, in the 5th floor genealogy department. They have hard copy, on-line and/or micro-film/fiche information concerning state and federal census, immigration, naturalization, land, birth/death and church/cemetery records. Who knows what new information has been added, or will be added, to their inventory since I was last there.

We are lucky to have one of 13 federal National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) centers here in Bldg 48, Denver Federal Center, 6th and Kipling, Lakewood. Their records are maintained on micro-film/fiche, but include not only the federal census' from 1790, but also federal military service and Native American records.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Family History Center, headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah has 13 locations in the Denver metro area, and all information is free and open to the public. Look up the location nearest to you in the Denver phone book, business section, under the full name given above.

Each state has its own bureau of vital records, which

(continued from page 2)

for a nominal fee, you can obtain birth and/or death certificates. Each county maintains the marriage/divorce record information, as well as land, naturalization and probate records.

Two local organizations, to which I belong, are the Colorado Genealogy Society (CGS) and Wales, Ireland, Scotland and England (WISE) Family History Society. CGS has an annual membership fee of about \$25.00, and meets from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on the 3rd Fridays of each month at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 2300 S. Patton Court, Denver.

WISE has an annual membership fee of about \$12.00, and meets from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the 4th Saturdays of each month on the 5th floor, downtown Denver Public Library.

Both groups present general and special interest programs, and sometimes tours, for very nominal fees.

And how could I forget just two of the on-line sites: Ancestry.Com and RootsWeb.Com. Both sites charge a membership fee, but some find it worth the expense to conduct research from your home computer.

There are many more research groups, societies, on-line sites and professional genealogists to contact for help in your research. I have also found it helpful to talk with others who have done research on their families, for helpful hints. If you mention genealogy research in a room of strangers, you'll be surprised how many will respond, and you connect with your common interest. Everyone is so helpful and willing to share. I hope I helped with some basic information. Feel free to call me, contact one or more of the above, and or just start talking to a stranger.

Happy Hunting,  
Charlene Sullivan,  
303/632-8312.

## BURNS SUPPER RECAP

Okay, so maybe I haven't been to many of the Burn's suppers...but this one had have been one of the best anywhere! To those who were unable to attend the birthday celebration of Robbie Burns (Scotland's national baird), please allow me to express my condolences because you missed quite an event. Any time old friends and new friends gather to enjoy good friendship, good food, and good whiskey; there is little doubt that a smile grows on our Robbie's face. Again this year the haggis was piped in by our wonderful piper John Bergquist, and Donald Robertson recited the "Address to the Haggis" and offered the "Selkirk Grace" to begin the rush to the buffet that was prepared.

The dinner was, once again, bountiful and brilliant! Dennis Smith prepared many verses of Robert's poems to be read and toasts to be made by clan members, which gave us yet another opportunity to lift our flasks in his honor. Great job Dennis!

An important tradition we observe is the toasting of our president, our troops and the queen. Bob Robertson again did a fantastic job in toasting the troops/president and Charlene Sullivan also did a remarkable job in toasting the queen. This year I was given the privilege of presenting the immortal address, and on a personal note I just want to say thank you for the opportunity...it was an honor to be able to praise the life and work of our national baird.

Although being often interrupted by toasts, announcements, and presentations; we were graced with the presence of some wonderful Celtic musicians who played throughout the evening. And with the evening drawing to a close...several retreated to the Jesters pub once again to make the wonderful evening last as long as possible.

The shocking part of the evening was that the bar ran out of Guinness...and Harp! Can you believe it? Didn't they know WE were coming? Not only did the bar outside the event dry up...Jesters ran out too. (I heard a rumor that we put a dent in the entire supply in the Northern Colorado region....just a rumor).

Personally speaking.....Nancy...you did a remarkable job! It mainly was because of you and

(continued from page 3)

your efforts that everyone had a wonderful and memorable time. The fact that the number of those in attendance was higher than ever only means that there will be more next year. I guess we will have to get a bigger room.....and more Guinness!

Ray

## CLAN HISTORY (AS I HAVE LEARNED IT) Pt 3

### By Donald Robertson

After the victory of the Scots at Prestonpans, shortly thereafter they continued south into England. Their hopes were based upon the belief that many other Jacobite supporters would join with them on their way south to defeat the King. Unfortunately very few others joined the cause as they traveled south. They eventually reached Darby which is only 45 miles from London. At this time their supplies as well as their money were both running very low. After a series of discussions among them, they decided to return north to Scotland. At the time they did this King Geordie was preparing his ship to return to Germany. They were actually that close to victory.

King Geordie's son The Duke of Cumberland at the time was fighting with his troops in France when word reached him about the situation in England. At this point his father recalled him to return to England with his ships. With the Scots returning north and the Duke returning, things turned for the worse for the Scots as they were then being pursued by the English who were drawing closer to them.

The Scots didn't stop going north until they were almost to Inverness which is close to the northern boundaries of Scotland. At this time the men were terribly tired and hungry after all this traveling. They then learned that The Duke and his men had landed about 30 miles to their northeast. The decision was then made to make a forced march toward the Duke and his men and lay a trap for them. At this point they were so tired and hungry that they decided to return to Drumossie Moor and await the English troops. Within two days the English arrived.

It was on the morning of April 16, 1746 that the battle took place. The Scots right flank contained The Atholl Brigade which included Clan Robertson.

Prince Charley was being advised by an Irish officer behind the line of the Scottish Clans. They had only two cannon while the English had well over forty cannon. When the Scots charged on this flat moor, the riflemen of Clan Campbell who always fought through the years on the side they thought would probably win the battle rose up and fired their muskets into the ranks of the Robertsons killing many of them. Also at this time, the English cannons began firing into The Scots. This was decimating resulting in horrible carnage to the Scots and Clan Robertson. However, many of our clan got to the English artillery and killed many with their broadswords which were their main weapon along with their dirks, a short sword about a foot in length.

At this point the battle was lost by the Highlanders and Clan Robertson. The English bayoneted the wounded and following that carried some of the wounded Scots into a small house near where the memorial is currently located in Scotland. There the English set fire to the house and burned the Scottish wounded. It was a very black day in Scottish history. Following the battle, the English went through the Highlands and killed any man wearing a kilt. They then proclaimed that no Scot could ever wear a kilt again upon pain of death. Following Culloden many other Clan chiefs began to import sheep into the highlands and rented their Clan lands to sheep herders. Our Chief never did this and mortgaged his lands to provide food for his people. He may have been the only Clan chief to do this.

Also following the defeat at Culloden, the only way a Scot could wear the kilt was to join the English army as one of the Highland Brigades. They had to wear the Redcoats of the British Army, but they got to wear the plaid kilts of their regiment.

This ended the long history of Scottish Clans until they were rejuvenated many years later.



## LADDIES SERVING THE LASSIES BRUNCH

On April 22, the men of Clan Donnachaidh will be hosting a brunch for the Ladies of said Clan. We will start socializing at 12:00 and brunch will be served at 1:00. Upon seating the lady folk will have an opportunity to select from a small menu of 3 meats, 3 starches, and 3 veggies. After making your choices a man in a kilt will bring your meal. There will be tea/coffee along with desert choices to follow. After the meal we will be playing a game of "Pictionary" with a Scottish theme.



Most of the meal will be cooked by the men and we promise that Haggis will not be a main dish!! So Ladies break out the finery and come let us adore you all!!!

Please RSVP by April 15<sup>th</sup> via the enclosed form or by calling Dennis Smith @ 303.439.9137 or by email [dennis@rdsmith.us](mailto:dennis@rdsmith.us)

To be held at the  
*Washington Park United Methodist Church*  
1955 E Arizona Ave,  
Denver, CO

**Tartan Hedgie**  
Custom Made Highland Wear  
Supplier of the Colorado Tartan



Call Marlyn Meador  
970.290.4077  
[mmador@msn.com](mailto:mmador@msn.com)



**Kilt Maker**

<http://www.tartanhedgie.com>

## HUNT THE GOWK - 1ST APRIL

By Hope Charles

I never imagined that April Fool's day was "celebrated" in Scotland, so imagine my surprise when I found out that not only is it a tradition, they make it last 2 days! In Scotland, the word 'Gowk' means both fool and cuckoo. It also seems they like to share their jokes with their neighbors as one traditional joke sends an unsuspecting fool on a Gowk Hunt, or Fool's Errand: "What compound interest is to simple addition," writes Chambers in his Book of Days, "so is Scottish to English fooling" (McNeill, 53, quoting from Robert Chambers' Book of Days)." Not being content to make someone believe a single piece of absurdity, some poor fool is sent out on a Gowk's errand. The victim is sent away with a note supposedly asking for some item, but in reality containing only the words, Never laugh, never smile,

"Hund the gowk another mile."

The recipient of this note, with a grave face, tells the victim that he doesn't have such an article, but if the victim will go to so-and-so's with the note, only another mile away, surely he will find it. Off he goes, only to be told the same thing by the next person. He goes on, hunting the gowk another mile, then another; till finally he realizes what is happening, or some tender-hearted person tells him. "A successful affair of this kind will keep rustic society in merriment for a week, during which honest Andrew Wilson hardly can show his face" (McNeill, 53, quoting from Robert Chambers' Book of Days).

The origins of April fools day may lie in the many changes to calendars in earlier centuries. When the Julian calendar was adopted the New Year fell in the last week of New Years, typically March 25th. When the calendar was changed to the current Gregorian mode New Years was of course moved to the December 31st date we celebrate today. Those who did not change their time of celebrating the New Year were shortly referred to as an April Fool, or a Gowk. However there has long been a tradition of springtime frivolity and joke playing that may have predated any calendar change. Either way jokes of all are played on April 1st.

The Scottish also prolong the April Foolery by celebrating Taily Day on April 2nd. This day is set aside for rump-related jokes, such as pinning paper tails on people's posteriors. The origin of the ever-popular "Kick Me" sign is likely traceable to this

(Continued from page 5)  
observance. The same custom takes place in the Orkney Isles (located just off the Scottish Mainland), where this area's "Tailing Day" is also celebrated on April 2.

"Dinna laugh, an' dinna smile  
But hunt the gowk another mile"

So for April Fool's Day, I offer up a twist on a traditional Scottish Dish:

Chicken Shepard's Pie  
1 chicken; Rub w/salt & pepper  
Carrots  
Root Vegetables  
Bake 1 hour  
Onion  
Peas  
Mashed Potatoes

Cool chicken until it may be easily handled, skin bone and cut up Chicken, cut up root vegetables and mix in baking dish. Use broth to make gravy. Blend onion and peas with chicken and vegetables in baking dish and stir in gravy. Cover with mashed potatoes and bake for 30 minutes at 350 degrees.

Alternately: I like to use just chicken breast and I use a lot of vegetables, usually a good mix variety that includes corn, green beans, lima beans and the previously requested peas. Also, I blend an egg into the mashed potatoes to get them to brown up a little bit more.

I'm sure that with all the creative cooking minds in our clan everyone will come up with their own best alternatives.

## CLAN DONNACHAIDH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, March 2, 2007

Present: Nancy Bigley, Mindy Bolen, Hope Charles, Dennis Smith, Charlene Sullivan, Dennis Bolan, Becky Robertson, Tom Reed, Cathleen

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President, Nancy Bigley

Last month's meeting minutes were waved due to referring to Robert Burn's dinner.

Treasure's Report:

\$1,900.00 balance in account; \$406 in memorial fund.

Current Membership: 46 paid members!

Web Site / Newsletter:

Articles received from Mindy and Becky only. Still require articles from Ray, Nancy, Hope, and Cathleen.

Donald Part 3 of history article to be added.

Need to add Bob Baskin as a past president. Change order of presidents to chronological.

Mindy suggested creating a list of all monthly articles required for publication.

Becky to begin contributing local human interest articles to the newsletter.

Need to establish list of anniversaries and birthdays for newsletter, day and month only.

Dennis suggested using Google office as a central location for word processing and storage of documents for newsletter.

New Business:

Doni Bond suggested have a women's group/meeting/tea. Building on that it was suggested to turn it into a "Quilting Bee". This would give us an opportunity to make an item for next year's silent auction at the Robert Burn's dinner that is unique and hand-made.

April 22nd Laddies serving the Lassies: at Charlene's church. Dinner, dessert, activities.

Mindy making up cards to do a Scottish Pictionary. RSVP required by April 15th.

Committee Reports:

Member Relations: no discussion

Event Coordinator: no discussion

Scrapbook/Historian: no discussion

Promotional Committee: Denim and Polo shirt orders, as these were the most on voted items.

Nancy working on wax in Pub glasses.

**Business:**

- Robert Burns:
  - CD's of photos available for downloading from web-site

Meeting adjourned 9pm.

## CLAN BOARD 2006 / 2007

**President:** Nancy Bigley  
303-691-5007  
[nabigley@msn.com](mailto:nabigley@msn.com)

**Vice President:** Ray Ward  
307-214-7102  
[wyodonnachaidh@hotmail.com](mailto:wyodonnachaidh@hotmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Mindy Bolen  
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**Secretary:** Hope Charles  
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**Newsletter:** Dennis Smith  
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## PAST PRESIDENTS

Bob Baskins  
Mark Donnachaidh,  
Curtis Roberts,  
Bob Robertson,  
Charlene Sullivan  
Becky Robertson

## UP COMING EVENTS

We hope you will all mark your calendars and that we'll see everyone at as many of the events as possible. Watch the website and your e-mails for details and links.

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>April 14</b>             | Colorado Tartan Day<br>Westminster, CO  |
| <b>April 22</b>             | First Annual Laddies Serving<br>the Lassies<br>Washington Park United<br>Methodist Church |
| <b>June 16<sup>th</sup></b> | Annual Ice Cream<br>Social/Picnic<br>(We are currently researching a park location)       |

<b>June 29- July 1</b>	Second Annual Cheyenne Celtic Music Festival Cheyenne, Wyoming
<b>July 14&amp;15</b>	Colorado Irish Festival Clement Park, Littleton, CO
<b>July 20&amp;21</b>	Renaissance Faire, Scottish/Irish Weekend Larkspur, CO
<b>August 11&amp;12</b>	Colorado Scottish Festival and Rocky Mountain Highland Games, Highlands Ranch, CO
<b>September 6-9</b>	Long's Peak Scottish/Irish Festival Estes Park, CO
<b>October 14</b>	Annual General Meeting Washington Park United Methodist Church Denver, CO
<b>October 3-7</b>	International Clan Donnachaidh Annual Gathering Pitlochry, Scotland
<b>December 1</b>	Third Annual Yule Party Bolen's, Thornton, CO

## TREASURER'S REPORT 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER

Hi All! Hope everyone is enjoying the break from the snows we had in December and January. First of all, I want to welcome our newest members to the Rocky Mountain Branch of Clan Donnachaidh/Robertson and hope that they will join us (when able) in some of our functions through out the year.

Janice Butler	Parker, CO
William Henwood	Centennial, CO
W. William Raymond	Sheridan, Wy

We look forward to getting to know you and your families!

Secondly, a little about our finances. I want to send out a BIG "Thank You!" to our anonymous donor who kindly sent the registration fees for the Estes Park Games. It is very much appreciated by all who get the opportunity to visit during the games and enables us to continue to participate each year. We DO have some of the best members around!

Now for the numbers:

Current Members:	46
General Fund	\$1,931.02
Memorial Fund	\$406.20

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Burns Dinner "drawings" We had an excellent response and had a great time with the drawings. The drawing tickets were flying off the roll. A special thanks to Dick and Sandy Hall for the painting, Michael Duncan and Alice Wood for the beautiful jewelry they donated, to Renee who donated the beautiful dulcimer, and of course to the council members for their donations.

We are always looking for items for these special drawings, so if you have an item, book, art piece, etc. that you would like to donate for the next round of drawings, please contact any of the council members. It doesn't have to be an expensive item, just something you think our members would be interested in. We very much appreciate anything donated, and remember, all the money collected is split between the General Fund, which helps to pay for the events, games, and activities held each year, and the Memorial Fund, which was created to help pay for a piper in the event of a member's passing.

Until next time...

Slainte!  
Mindy Bolen  
Clan Treasurer