



# Clan Donnachaidh News

Rocky Mountain Branch

September 2005

## Frae the President

By Becky Robertson

It's been a busy summer for Clan Donnachaidh and it's not over yet! We still have the Festival in Estes Park, AGM in October and we will be planning a party during the holiday season. Anyone wanting to participate in the planning of one or all of these events is encouraged to join in. Let me know how you want to help.

We had a good turnout for the Highland Ranch festival and the sign-up of volunteers to man the booth worked out well. We have started another sheet for Estes Park, so those of you coming, please sign-up at the booth for a two hour period to greet people. This is such help for our "regulars" wanting to get out for specific events.

As you will see from the treasurer's report on the following pages our coffers are low after the activity of the summer. This is a good time to encourage everyone to get in their clan dues which are due by September 30th. You can send them directly to Mindy Bolen or pay at the festival in Estes Park. As you know, part of the dues goes to Scotland in support of the museum and the current rate of exchange is somewhere around \$20.00 for Scotland and \$10.00 for our branch. \$10.00 is not a lot for us to work with so if you know of someone that has neglected to pay last year please encourage them to get in their dues. Dues are \$30.00 for families or individuals.

Discussions at past events and council meetings have brought new ideas as to what direction the clan is heading. It's also exciting to see the ideas from new members getting involved. The idea of putting together sub-committees to work on some of these ideas is gaining strength. Such committees would work on purchasing promotional items for

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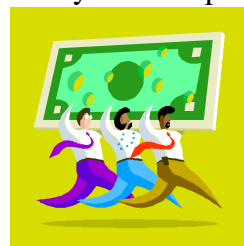
the clan, a group to sort through the clan papers and update them, scheduling and planning events, and possible attendance to other Scottish festivals in the state. If you have ideas as to the direction we should be heading and would like to get involved, please contact me. I am always glad to hear from you.

In closing, I want to wish those just married a joyful and passionate future, Amanda and David a wonderful wedding ceremony and Happy Birthday to those celebrating in the coming months.

Becky Robertson

## Clan Dues

It's that time again for clan dues! Please be prompt and get them in by September 30th. You can send money and an updated information sheet to Mindy



Bolen, 3604 E. 88th Cir. N., Thornton, CO 80229. Dues are \$30.00 for families or individuals. An updated information sheet will enable us to get together an accurate members list. (You would be

surprised at some of the outdated information we have at this time). Just a reminder, those that pay their dues get newsletters!

## Upcoming Events

### Clan Attended

**September 9th-11th** - Longs Peak Scottish/Irish Highland Festival, Estes park, CO  
The Mother of all festivals in Colorado for certain, and one of the biggest in the country, with beautiful scenery, great people, and lots to see, the Estes Park games will keep you talking all year long, this is one worth the drive, no matter how long!

**September 16th** - Council Meeting

**October 23rd** - AGM, 2:00, Washington Park United Methodist Church

**November 4th** - Council Meeting

**December** - Yule Party (early in the month, date to be announced later)

**January 21, 2006** - Robert Burns Supper, Radisson Graystone Castle

\*\*Council meetings have been changed to the 1st Friday every other month at Mindy Bolen's home unless otherwise noted.

### Additional Scottish Events-2005

**October 28th** - SASC Annual General Meeting

**November 5th** - St. Andrew Ball

**January 28, 2006** - St. Andrew Robert Burns Supper

### Upcoming Highland Games

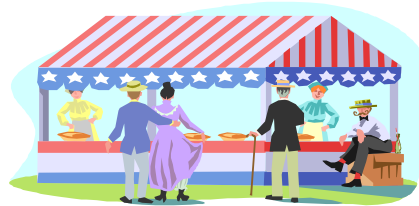
**September 9th-11th** - Longs Peak Scottish/Irish Highland Festival, Estes park, CO

**September 24th**, Aspen Snowmass Scottish Games & Festival, Snowmass Village

### Clan Booth Volunteers

**Here ye Here ye all Lads and Lassie** going to Longs Peak Scottish/Irish Highland Games, Estes Park, Colorado, September 9-10-11. We are looking for people to sign up for 2 hour blocks of time to assist with hosting the Clan Donnachaidh/Robertson booth.

We have two reasons for this request first: it is a fun way to get to know each other as well as share information about our clan with game visitors; second: if we all assist it allows everyone to enjoy the events of the games.



If you are interested in helping us host, please contact Nancy Bigley at

or

come by the booth while at the games and sign up to help.

Thanks and we look forward to having enjoyable times at these gatherings.

Nancy Bigley  
Counsel Member

### New Book of Interest



A book that will be printed at the end of August might be of interest: "Wills and Other Probate Records, A Practical Guide to Researching Your Ancestors' Last Documents," by Karen Graunnum and Nigel Taylor. It can be ordered via The

National Archives website,  
[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/shop](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/shop). Happy Hunting!

## Past Events

### June 26 Clan Gathering

We were pleased to host the Clan Gathering in June with fifteen members attending. After an hour of socializing, we had a program about "Early Settlers of Britain and Notable Scots."

Many people with British and Irish ancestors think of themselves, as do others, as Anglo-Saxon, but in fact their ancestors may have been Celts, Viking, Norman, Anglo-Saxon or some mixture thereof.

We discussed the early settlement patterns of Britain and concentrated on the ethnic groupings in Scotland, with Picts in the North, Scotti in the West, Britons in Strathclyde, and Angles in the Southeast.

We then discussed some notable Scots beginning with William Wallace and Robert the Bruce. We also reviewed some of the Scottish inventors, doctors, and scientists including Macintosh (raincoat), Macadam (road surface), Dunlop (tires), Bell (telephone), Baird (tv), Fleming (penicillin), Simpson (chloroform), and others.

We talked about some of the Scottish literary figures including the great historian William Robertson, economist Adam Smith, philosopher David Hume, and authors Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Robert Lewis Stevenson. We reviewed some of the works of Sir Walter Scott and samplings of the life and poetry of Robert Burns.

We enjoyed beautiful weather except for a brief rain shower, and then we picnicked and continued to socialize.

We look forward to future Clan activities.

Bob and Sylvia Robertson

## Ice Cream Social

**On July 10th**, 22 of our Clan members enjoyed an Ice Cream Social at the home of Dennis and Rachale Smith in Broomfield, Co. The food was great and the company better.

Unfortunately the power went out in the middle of the day and it was a hot one. Luckily we had lots of homemade Ice Cream on hand to cool things off.



We had a great time and it was good to see everyone. Dave Robertson brought his family tree to show everyone. Like we didn't know he was a Scotsman!!!!

Dennis & Rachale Smith

## Birthday!!



**Megan Robertson** celebrates her **6<sup>th</sup>** birthday on September 6<sup>th</sup>!  
Happy birthday Megan!!!

## Wedding Vows



September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005 please come join Amanda and Dave Robertson in the renewal of their wedding vows, a little more romantic this time, since the original vows at the DMV were "Do you swear you are not related to one another and you are both here of your own free will?"

The celebration will be held at their home at 172 Pegasus Dr, Lone Tree CO at 4:00 pm, with a great party to follow. Please call for directions and to RSVP 303-790-9456, or 720-291-6267. We would love to see everyone there! Our youngest clan member (Troy) will proudly wear his kilt as the ring bearer, and Megan looks smashing in her flower girl dress!

## Weddings

**Travis Roberts and Molly McLean** were married at the Aspen Lodge July 16, 2005. Molly is also a piper and teaches in Longmont where the couple is residing. We send them our warmest wishes and congratulations.



## News from Rebecca and Ken Barton

We've said *Goodbye* to the state of Colorado and *HELLO* to the state of Arkansas, warmer weather, and less traffic congestion. We'll be close to the shores of Bull Shoals Lake in a quiet residential area.

The lake has warm water swimming and fishing, plus terrific camping! Ya'll come see us, y' hear!!

Rebecca & Ken Barton

**Roger and Nancy MacBride** are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, Sophia to Richard Lee Collins. Sophia and Richard were married on Saturday, August 6, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.

The ceremony and reception were held at Calvary Temple in Denver. Sophia's brother, Steve Martin, married the couple.

After a honeymoon in Las Vegas, they will reside in Parker, Colorado.



# **DONNACHAIDH INTERNATIONAL UPDATE**

**23 JUNE, 2005**

**Bill Robertson, Int. Vice Chairman**

## **Special lodging and meals package at the AGM**

Fisher's Hotel in Pitlochry is offering a special package for members planning to attend the October AGM. Thirty five twin/double rooms have been reserved for Clan Donnachaidh from 25<sup>th</sup> September for seven nights under the reservation number 2888.

Members should ask for Kirsten MacLennan, Front Office Manager, and mention this reservation number when phoning, or direct it to her attention if emailing. The hotel will hold these rooms until the 15<sup>th</sup> of August, at which time any unsold rooms will be released

The rate will be £40.00 per person per night for dinner, bed and breakfast. Reservations can be made by telephone (from the US) at 011 44 1796 472 000 or by e-mail on [reservations.fishers@crerarhotels.com](mailto:reservations.fishers@crerarhotels.com).

Those who have already reserved rooms at Fishers are advised to take advantage of the package by contacting the hotel again with the reservation number 2888.

## **Clan Donnachaidh DNA Surname seminar**

At 2:00 pm on Friday, 30 September, a meeting will be held at the Westlands Inn in Pitlochry for a discussion of the latest Donnachaidh DNA Surname project developments. All are welcomed.

After just two years, and more than 100 participants, we have identified two members whose results demonstrate direct relationships to our Chief's line. David Robertson, cousin of Gilbert, will be with us for the meeting, as will Barry Robertson of the Mid-Atlantic Branch.

Barry's results indicate that he probably descends from our 10<sup>th</sup> Chief, Robert of Struan, who died in 1630.

At the meeting I'll present a power point program explaining DNA testing techniques and how family relationships are proved or disproved. The establishment of the next logical step in the DNA program, a genealogical database, will be discussed.

Ron Greer, former curator of the Clan museum, will be with us to discuss the potential for DNA samples from the 1350 year old skeleton of a Pict male unearthed in Blair Atholl, and now in the Perth Museum.

## **"Clan Donnachaidh in Atholl" by James Irvine Robertson**

James Irvine Robertson, Editor of the Clan Annual and widely recognized author of Scottish history, has published the first new book in many years detailing the history of Clan Donnachaidh. "Clan Donnachaidh in Atholl" will shortly be available from Librario Publishing in bulk lots for just under £5 per book, or about \$9.00 U.S. I suggest that branches purchase books in lots of 12, 24, etc., and mark them up to roughly \$20 for retail sale to members and at games.

I will notify each branch with the relevant details as soon as the publisher sends me the exact price, shipping costs, etc.

## **KILT ETIQUETTE (humor)**

Walk; do not run, for departing buses, trains, or the last call in the pub. If you must walk fast, then keep your hands firmly on your sporran. If you find your sporran is up around your neck, you're walking much too quickly.

Do not go upstairs, especially in a double-decker bus, a lighthouse, or Sir Walter Scott's monuments. Likewise, you should avoid open balconies and glass-fronted elevators. Neither should you go downstairs. If you find yourself upstairs, then wait until all spectators have left the premises before you descend.

Do not stoop, crouch or squat to pick up anything from the floor. Have a friend pick up the object for you. If your friends will not oblige, kick the object to a secluded spot before you retrieve it. If you have no friends, then stooping, crouching or squatting in a kilt may only worsen your lonely condition.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As another summer comes to an end, it's time to look forward to our Annual General Meeting. It's a time to elect officers, make business decisions and socialize with new and long time members over a hearty meal. You don't want to miss it!

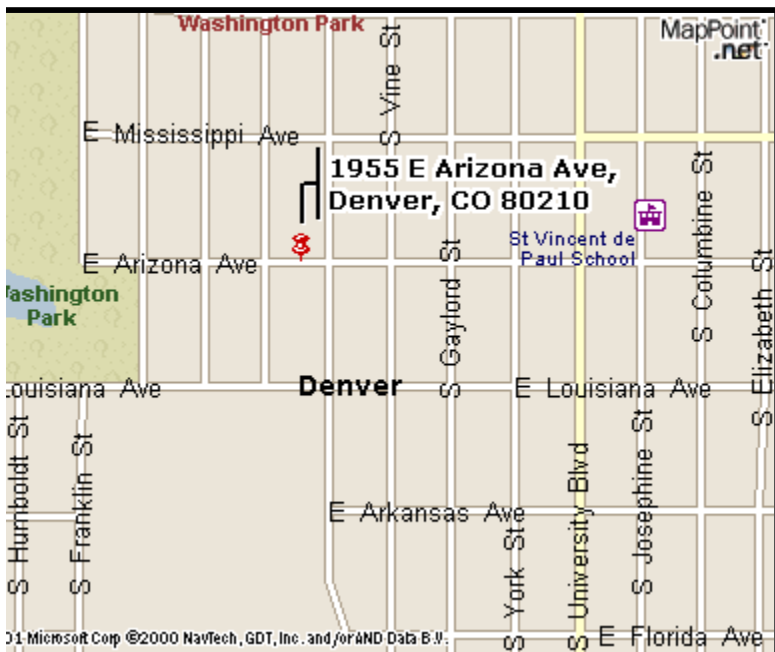
Join us at 2:00 p.m., Sunday afternoon, Oct 23, 2005 at the Washington Park United Methodist Church (WPUMC), 1955 E. Arizona Ave (4 blocks west of 1200 S. University Blvd), Denver.

We'll socialize for a while; have a business meeting at 3:00 p.m. then eat around 4:00 p.m. and socialize some more. Maybe even talk about genealogy and other social activities for the coming year.

The clan will provide the meat, soft drinks/coffee and table service.

Please bring a pot luck covered dish to share along with your "Brilliant" ideas, enthusiasm and family love.

Directions to the church are listed below. Remember, I-25 and University is in construction chaos. Any questions, call Charlene Sullivan at her new home phone, 303/632-8312, new home address 2804 S. Heather Gardens Way, Unit A, Aurora, CO 80214.



## **The Robertsons, Clan Donnachaidh in Atholl By James Irvine Robertson**



The first history of the Clan for more than half a century with over 100 pages, which includes maps of Clan country and 45 illustrations. The author, James Robertson, has edited the Clan Donnachaidh Annual for ten years and has written several histories of aspects of Atholl and its clans.

The clan has made several copies available for purchase for our members. The cost of this wonderful history is \$15.00, cash or check made out to Clan Donnachaidh.

If you'd like a copy of your own, please send your check to:

Mindy Bolen,  
3604 E. 88th Cir. N.,  
Thornton, CO 80229.

If you'd like it mailed to you, please add \$1.50 for cost of media mail postage and envelope. (Please include your current mailing address!) These will be sold on a first come, first serve basis, so get yours while they last!

# Clan Board 2004-2005

**President:** Becky Robertson

**Vice President:** Russell Robertson

**Treasurer:** Mindy Bolen

**Secretary:** Amanda Robertson

**Newsletter:** Dennis Smith

Nancy Bigley

Kathleen Cahoon

Nancy MacBride

David Robertson

Maureen Silva



Charlene Sullivan

## Past Presidents

Curtis Roberts,  
Bob Robertson,  
Mark Donnachaidh  
Charlene Sullivan

## Treasurer's Report

Currently, we have \$270.97 in the Clan treasury. We have paid for both the Highland's Ranch and Estes Park games and have a couple of things lined up to help us raise some much needed funds.

I would like to take a second and send a big "THANK YOU!" to our anonymous donor who paid for the booth at the Estes

Mindy Bolen  
Treasurer



## CEMETERY SLEUTHING

Like all genealogists, I am sure that you like to stroll through a cemetery.

If you find a tombstone with the place in the United Kingdom where the person was born, copy and send the information to the editor of International Society of British Genealogy and Family History [www.isbgfh.org](http://www.isbgfh.org), P.O. Box 35059, Westminster, CO 80035.

It will be placed in the Journal and you will be helping someone find a relative. These are referred to as "Strays." Be sure you give the name of the cemetery and the town

Charlene Sullivan