

ROBERTSON'S RANT

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



VOLUME 14, ISSUE 1
FEBRUARY 2025

ALEXANDRIA SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK

by Jim Fargo

On Saturday December 7th, I arrived in Old Town Alexandria with my son **Andrew** and **Robert Knight** at 7:30am to set up for the Christmas Walk parade. After a leisurely breakfast at the Subway shop across from Market Square with Branch President **Sam Kistler**, we proceeded to the staging area around 9:30am to register and find our specific location.

With the banner up and flags unfurled, clan folk soon began arriving to join us for a few hours of socializing before the 11:00am scheduled start of the parade. We had 22 clan marchers in our unit. However, due to our placement in the parade lineup we didn't step off until 12:10pm. Led by **Steve Hoffman** carrying the clan's animal totem, "Wolfie", we quickly warmed up as we marched. Since we practiced the clan war cry "Fierce When Roused" several times along the parade route, our timing was perfect as we passed the reviewing stand giving our best shout of the day!

Fortunately, the parade units moved quickly and we finished up in time to arrive at the Fish Market Restaurant on King Street for our 1:00pm reservation. With 28 attending our luncheon, we continued our socializing until we broke up around 3:00pm with everyone either heading home or searching for that perfect Christmas gift to cap off an enjoyable day.

Branch Officers

President:

Sam Kistler

Vice President:

Tom Due

Secretary/Treasurer:

Norman Dunkinson



CEUD MILE FAILTE—100,000 WELCOMES!

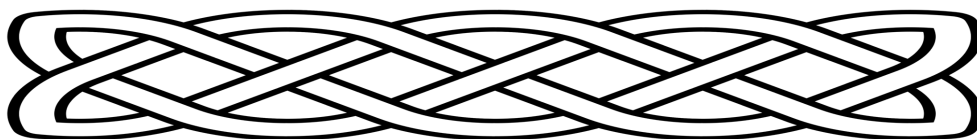
We'd like to welcome the following new and returning members who joined or renewed since the last report:

Jeffrey Beck

Carol A. Lucian

Christopher Robertson

Ian Robertson



Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|----|
| Scots Humor | 2 |
| Flower of Scotland | 3 |
| Raid of Angus | 4 |
| King David II | 6 |
| King Robert III | 7 |
| Loss of Royal Tar | 9 |
| Declaration of Arbroath | 10 |
| Celtic Events & Games— 2025 (First Half of Games Season) | 12 |

ROBERTSON'S RANT



Clan Donnachaidh at the Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk, Alexandria, Virginia, December 7, 2024.

SCOTS HUMOR

An elderly couple took their four year old grandson to church one Sunday morning. Grandma told the boy that he would be sitting with his grandpa in the church as she was a choir member. She took the boy aside and gave him a twenty pence piece and instructed him to poke grandpa now and then to keep him awake during the service.

Grandpa slept through much of the service. After church, grandma asked the boy why he hadn't followed her instructions. The boy replied, "Grandpa gave me 50 pence not to wake him."

Old Angus lay a-dying. His wife and his friends were gathered around the bedside to hear if he had any last words to say.

Thommas owes me fifty pounds," whispered old Angus.

"What a mind!" declared his wife. "Clear and strong to the very end!"

"And I owe Dugal a hundred," came the faint words.

"Oh the poor man," sobbed his wife. "Don't take any notice of his delirious wanderings!"

FLOWER OF SCOTLAND

by Jim Fargo

Roy Murdoch Buchanan Williamson (1936-1990) was born in Edinburgh on June 25, 1936, to Archibald Moir Macrae Williamson and Agnes Ethel Cummings Buchanan Williamson. His father was a lawyer and his mother was a talented pianist. While studying at the Edinburgh College of Art in 1955, he met Ronnie Browne and they played wing position against each other on the Edinburgh Wanderers and Boroughmuir rugby teams.

The 'Corries Folk Trio' made its debut at the Waverley Bar in Edinburgh in 1962. Originally formed by Roy Williamson, Bill Smith and Ron Cockburn the original group was named to reflect the Scottish mountain landscape. By 1966 the team had broken up so Roy and old rugby friend Ronnie Browne became the duo of Roy and Ronnie. They changed their name to 'The Corries' and soon became the public face of Scottish folk music with their own television series and their annual concert tours across Scotland.

Roy composed the song, "Flower of Scotland" in the mid-1960s and it was first heard publicly in 1967 on their BBC television series. It was not officially adopted by Scottish Rugby Union until 1990 but was first adopted by rugby fans in 1974 and then by football's Tartan Army as the unofficial Scottish national anthem.

During 'The Corries' last tour in late 1989, Williamson's health went into decline and he was diagnosed with a brain tumor which was operated on in January 1990. His last few months were spent living in Forres, till his death on August 12, 1990. The Corries were inducted into the Scottish Traditional Music Hall of Fame in 2005.

Postscript: Unfortunately, I don't think we can claim him as a Donnachaidh. The Williamson surname is also associated with clans Gunn, MacKay and MacLeod. His mother was a Buchanan and he went to school at Gordonstoun School at Duffus, near Elgin in Morayshire, well north of our clan territory. His father was born in Aberdeen in 1901 and grandfather was born in Duffus.

The Corries, with Roy Williamson at left.
From <https://alchetron.com/The-Corries>.



ROBERTSON'S RANT

RAID OF ANGUS

By James E. Fargo, FSA Scot

Background: During the turbulent last decade of the 1300s, anarchy ruled in Scotland. Alexander Stewart, Earl of Buchan, fourth son of King Robert II, and known as the notorious "Wolf of Badenoch", ruled the whole north of Scotland in the name of his father, as the "Justiciar and Lieutenant of the North." His older brother, Robert, Earl of Fife had been the Governor and Regent of Scotland since 1388, and had been the real power behind their father's throne. Their competition led to the Wolf being excommunicated for seizing the lands of the bishop of Moray and in revenge Alexander burned and plundered the towns of Forres in May and Elgin and its cathedral in June 1390. Upon their father's death, their elder brother, John, Earl of Carrick, was crowned as King Robert III at Scone in August 1390. Alexander was made to submit to his brothers in Perth and make full restitution to the bishop and humbly seek absolution from the pope. Earl Alexander's rage, as his nickname implies, led him to support his natural son, Sir Duncan Stewart, in raising a force in 1392 and sending him south to teach some of his older brother's supporters a lesson and get even with Earl Robert for his humiliation.

This was originally published in the 1992 Clan Donnachaidh Annual:

Sir Duncan Stewart, with some of his followers and accompanied by the Roses and their adherents from Strathnairn came south into Rannoch Country to meet up with our second Chief, Robert de Atholia, who had become chief in about 1355 upon the death of "Stout Duncan" of Bannockburn fame. Our Chief had been looking for a reason to "visit" the Lindsays and this opportunity was perfect.

His first wife had been the younger daughter of Sir John Sterling (de Striviling) of Glenesk and a co-heiress of the lands of Glenesk in Angus. Sir John's other daughter had married Sir Alexander Lindsay and their son, Sir David Lindsay of Glenesk, was afterward created Earl of Crawford in 1397. The Lindsays held about two thirds of the county of Angus and in addition were overlords of the highland district of Strathnairn, the home of the Roses and some of Sir Duncan's Clan Chattan followers.

The dispute between the two families was probably over the aunt's heritable lands which had passed to Sir David Lindsay, or possibly for some other reason now unknown, but our Chief now saw an opportunity to settle this score. Sir David Lindsay, expecting some trouble from his aunt's family, arranged a tryst with the Robertsons to mollify them and that meeting was not kept. Lindsay later sent a scout into Atholl to find out what was going on and the scout was never seen again. What was happening, of course, were secret meetings between our Chief and Sir Duncan Stewart. No hint of the impending foray in Angus leaked out and everything seemed peaceful and quiet.

One night, six hundred years ago a small army of our clansmen were mustered under our Chief's three younger half-brothers through their father's second marriage. These half-brothers were Patrick of Lude, Thomas of Strowan and Gibbon. Along with Sir Duncan Stewart and his followers, they secretly assembled and over three hundred men moved eastward into Angus to raid the Lindsays and their Ogilvie allies.

During the initial raid, many Ogilvies and Lindsays were slain, their homes burned and their cattle driven off westward toward Rannoch. Of course, the leaders of Glenesk, Glenisla and other districts of Angus quickly gathered together as many survivors as possible for pursuit and caught up with the highlanders near Blairgowrie, where a bloody battle was fought at Glasclune in revenge for the raid and to recapture the large herd of stolen cattle. The Angus men were beaten off with heavy losses and the highlanders continued moving westward at a leisurely pace up the valley of Strathardle toward home.

Meanwhile, news of the raid had been spread throughout Angus and most of the remaining Angus lairds gathered their forces under Sirl Waltger Ogilvie and rushed westward to join the defeated Angus men retreating from the previ-

RAID OF ANGUS (CONTINUED)

ous battle. Reorganized and once again pursuing our clan, the Angus men, although inferior in numbers, caught up with the raiders in the western portion of Strathardle at a site now known as Dalnagairn or “Field of the Cairns” at the very head of Glenbrierachan, which in Gaelic means “valley of the stream of the grey heights”, Lands which later belonged to the Robertsons of Balnaguard. The names of this site, Dalnagairn, comes from the ancient custom of the highlanders, which was to raise cairns over the slain both as monuments to the fallen and also to prevent wolves and foxes from later scratching up the dead.

At this site, about six miles northeast of Pitlochry, a second battle took place, which is generally considered to have been one of the most savage fights throughout the entire history of clan conflicts. This fight was between the pride of Angus chivalry, led by some threescore men mounted on horseback, fully clad in steel armour and carrying long lances against wild highlanders afoot and armed with claymore, targe and dirk. The highlanders sent the cattle on before them and stood their ground on rough defensive terrain difficult for horsemen. The Angus chivalry and their followers attacked and were instantly overwhelmed by the ferocity of the defenders, they panicked and were then routed. The hereditary Sheriff of Angus, Sir Walter Ogilvie was killed along with his brother and nearly a dozen other knights and according to reports over sixty more of the Angus men were slain. Sir David Lindsay was wounded and the story of how he was wounded illustrated the ferocity of the battle. Sir David had laced and pinned one of the raiders to the ground. The mortally wounded man pulled himself up the lace and with his claymore almost severed Lindsay’s foot by slashing through the stirrup and armoured steel boot and cutting through to the bone. The Angus survivors fled. The raiders, not content to have just defeated the men of Angus a second time, followed. The Angus men bravely made two vain attempts to rally after this second defeat, first at a site which is called to this day Dail-chosnaidh or the “field of contending” and then again at a pass five hundred yards further down the glen now known as the Clais-chatha or the “battle hollow”. A number of men were killed in this pass and their bodies were thrown into a small loch now called Al Lochan Dubh. The hollow to which the cattle were driven before the fight at Dalnagairn and up which the highlanders marched triumphantly home with their thousands of new cattle and other hard-won booty, is still called the “pass of thanksgiving”. The vanquished survivors did not meekly submit to this total defeat and appealed to their ally and Regent, Robert Earl of Fife, for redress. He pushed through an Act of Parliament, by which our Chief’s half-brothers were declared outlaws and the clan was laid under forfeiture, but that is another story.

Postscript: Our Chief had to give up all claim to the northern part of Rannoch to have the King’s forfeiture removed. These lands had been given to Duncan de Atholia, our first Chief, by Robert the Bruce for our part in the victorious Battle of Bannockburn in June 1314.

Second Postscript: In 1992, at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, our clan marched around the field to the Clan Lindsay tent and presented them with a three-foot high plywood cow (made by Curtis MacIver) to commemorate the 600th anniversary of the Raid. Since then, there have been countless “raids” over the years at the various Celtic festivals between our now friendly clans.



Glasclune Castle. From <https://www.flickr.com/photos/62445171@N00/28209832388>.

ROBERTSON'S RANT

KING DAVID II (1324—1371)

by James E. Fargo, FSA Scot

King David II (son of King Robert the Bruce) reigned from 1347-1371. He invaded England in support of France in 1346 after King Philip VI of France had asked the Scots to fulfil their obligation under the terms of the Treaty of Corbeil in 1326 (the Auld Alliance) and invade England. The Scots army was defeated at the Battle of Neville's Cross near Durham on October 17th of that year. David was captured and held as a prisoner in England while his nephew, Robert Stewart (son of Robert the Bruce's sister Christina) governed Scotland. Both Duncan (our first chief) and his eldest son Robert were part of the Scots army and captured after that battle. They were held hostages in England for a time before being released.

King David's eleven-year captivity in England ended in 1357. King Edward III released him because he needed money to fund his French campaigns and gave King David an installment plan of nine years to pay the ransom of 60,000 pounds (90,000 Scots merks). To raise this ransom, King David initiated property assessments, tax collections, fines, levies and forced contributions from the nobility, gentry and burghs. As the years progressed and the yearly ransom payments were not received, the Scots eventually defaulted on the remaining loan in 1363, forcing an aggravated King Edward to raise the ransom demand to 100,000 merks.

King Edward had also been upset with King David over his various indiscreet affairs with women. David's Queen, Joanna, was Edward's sister. Reports from Scotland angered Edward that the money being raised for the ransom, was instead being misused and spent on David's various lady friends and not being forwarded to England. King David was also responsible for debasing the Scots money. Instead of one pound of silver being equal to 252 silver pennies, it was reduced to equal 352 pennies.

The Earl of Atholl (who at this time was Robert, High Steward of Scotland and later King Robert II) stabbed to death one of the king's girlfriends, Katherine Mortimer, on the road at Soutra Hill in 1360 because he was upset over how his contributions were being wasted. Atholl was not charged. On Queen Joanna's death in 1362, David married one of his lady friends, the Lady Margaret Drummond. That relationship soon soured and divorce proceedings began in 1369. The new Queen-Consort sailed off to Rome to request the Pope to deny the King's request for a divorce. On the eve of marrying another mistress, Agnes Dunbar, with hopes of producing a male heir, King David died on February 23, 1371. With King David's death, Scotland was able to breathe a financial sigh of relief as "ransoms did not have to be paid on dead men." Earl Robert Stewart became the first of the royal Stewart Kings of Scotland as King Robert II.

References:

- Ross, David, "Scotland, History of a Nation", Lomond Books, 2004, pp.101-103.
 Reid, J. Robertson, "A Short History of the Clan Robertson", Perth, 1933, pp. 39-40.
 Tranter, Nigel, "The Story of Scotland", Neil Wilson Publishers, Glasgow, 2000, pp. 83-85.



Battle of Neville's Cross. From <https://www.britishbattles.com/one-hundred-years-war/battle-of-nevilles-cross/>.

KING ROBERT III (1337—1406)

By James E. Fargo, FSA Scot

On the death of King Robert II on April 19, 1390 at Dundonald Castle, his 53 year-old eldest son John, was proclaimed as King Robert III and crowned on August 14 at Scone Abbey. The name John was considered unlucky after the earlier reign of “Toom Tabard” (empty surcoat), King John Balliol. On his accession to the throne, John relinquished his titles of High Steward, Earl of Atholl and Earl of Carrick. Having been badly injured from a horse kick in 1388 the Privy Council had previously transferred governing authority to his younger son Robert, Earl of Fife and Menteith to represent their father, King Robert II.

In accordance to their father’s wishes after he was crowned, King Robert’s younger brother, Robert Earl of Fife and Menteith, was to continue to serve as the King’s Lieutenant for his older brother.

Another Stewart brother was Alexander, Earl of Buchan and Ross who served as Lieutenant of the North for his father, the late Robert II. Earl Alexander earned the nickname, “Wolf of Badenoch” from his public and private warfare throughout the highlands from his Loch an Eilean Castle headquarters in the Rothiemurchus Forest. He burned the town of Elgin’s splendid cathedral in 1390 to avenge his excommunication by the Bishop of Moray resulting from his matrimonial misdeeds. The highland clans showed scant respect for the crown and total disregard for the law as administered by Duke Robert.

At this time, the earldom of Atholl was held by another brother, Earl Walter Stewart, second son of King Robert’s second wife. Earl Alexander had an ongoing dispute with Sir David Lindsay of Glenesk over his support for his brother Earl Robert, and requested one of his many sons to punish Lindsay for him. Sir David Lindsay was married to the younger sister of our second Chief Robert’s wife. As there was some dispute over the heritable lands of the two sisters, Chief Robert agreed to assist Sir Duncan Stewart of Garth and his henchmen. Together with Chief Robert’s younger brothers and our clansmen, they made a joint raid into Angus to replenish Atholl cattle from the Lindsay and Ogilvie herds. This raid became known as the “Raid of Angus”. Lindsay appealed to King Robert to punish the raiders and was successful. To get the forfeiture removed, our Chief had to give up ownership of the north side to Loch Rannoch to the Crown.

In 1396 after the famous Battle on the North Inch at Perth, Earl Robert was created the first Duke of Albany and King Robert III’s eldest son and heir David was created the first Duke of Rothesay. The appointment of King’s Lieutenant was transferred from Albany to Rothesay and he was charged to gain control and rule the country for three years. Rothesay was unable to govern and due to his marital infidelities, he earned powerful enemies which succeeded in earning him an invasion of Scotland by King Henry IV in 1400. Peace was quickly restored by Albany which resulted in



Posthumous Portrait of Robert III, King of Scotland, by Jacob Jacobsz de Wet II, painted 1684-6. From <https://www.rct.uk/collection/403278/robert-iii-king-of-scotland-1337-1406>.

ROBERTSON'S RANT

KING ROBERT III (1337—1406) (CONTINUED)

Rothsay being captured and imprisoned at Falkland early in 1402 where he allegedly died of starvation in March 1402. With Albany back in charge as the King's Lieutenant, King Robert III began fearing for the life of James, his younger son and heir. He decided to send him secretly by ship to safety in France. Unfortunately, James was captured by English pirates on March 22, 1406 and with the news of his capture, King Robert III was heartbroken and died at Dundonald Castle on April 4, 1406.

With Scotland's new King James, a boy and prisoner of the English, the country remained in the control of Albany and later his son Murdoch, until in 1424, when James was released and returned to rule Scotland.

References:

Hamilton, Ronald, "Holiday History of Scotland", New York, NY, 1975, pp. 105-108.

Reid, J. Robertson, "a Short History of the clan Robertson, Eneas MacKay, Stirling, 1933, pp. 98-103.

Tranter, Nigel, "Courting Favour", Hodder & Stoughton, London, 2000.



The Burning of the Royal Tar by Charles Codman, 1836. From <https://canadianart.ca/features/fire-sea-charles-codmans-burning-royal-tar/>.

LOSS OF ROYAL TAR

by James E. Fargo, FSA Scot

During the summer of 1836, a new steamer vessel named the 'Royal Tar' began its first journey after being built at the Saint John Harbor in the Canadian province of New Brunswick. The ship was named after King William IV of England because of his interest in the British navy.

The commander of the ship as it headed out of Saint John Harbor on Friday morning, October 21, 1836 was Captain Thomas Reed. The cargo consisted of an entire circus heading to Portland, Maine. Along with the circus brass band and circus crew, an assortment of horses, two camels, Mogul the elephant, two lions, one Royal Bengal tiger, a gnu and two pelicans made up the strange cargo.

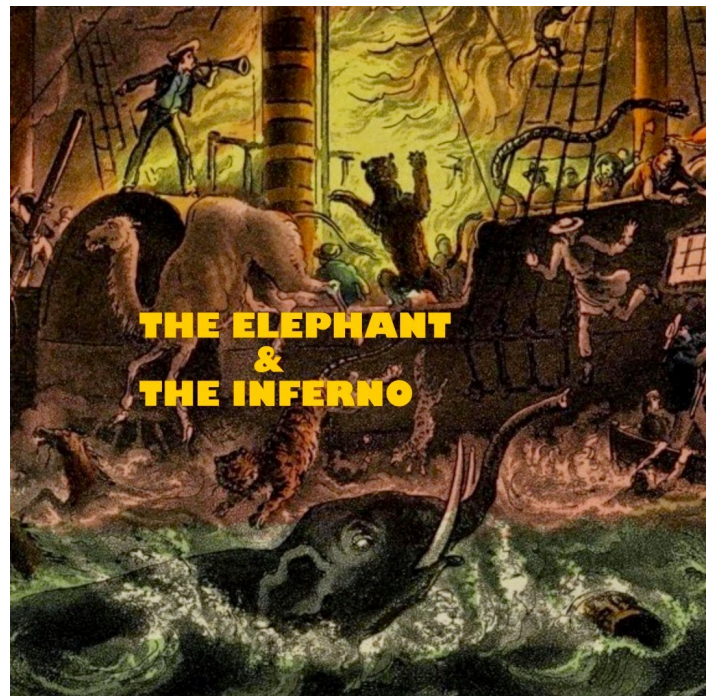
Several days later a storm with high winds forced the ship to seek an anchorage in Eastport Harbor, Maine. Leaving Eastport, she was again forced to seek shelter from high winds, this time behind Fox Island. While waiting for the winds to die down, the pilot ordered the boilers to be refilled before continuing the journey. The pilot's son found the lower cock to be empty and reported same to his father, who then told the second engineer. A few minutes after this discussion, the empty boiler became red hot and set two wedges supporting the elephant stall on fire.

By the time Captain Reed realized that there was a fire onboard, it was beyond control. He ordered his crew to slip the anchor, hoist a distress signal and lower the boats. Captain Reed and several men lowered the stern boat and started for the shore with a full load of eighteen crewmen. A revenue cutter, the 'Veto' approached the burning vessel but wouldn't get close to the burning ship as it was carrying a large load of gunpowder. The remaining crewmen still on the ship constructed a raft to make their escape. Unfortunately, as they were casting off, Mogul the elephant, had managed to make it onto the deck. To escape the fire, Mogul went overboard onto the makeshift raft sinking it and drowning everyone on board. While this was going on, Captain Reed switched boats and took command of the revenue cutter and managed to rescue several others of the remaining passengers before the 'Royal Tar' sank. Of the ninety-three persons on board, 32 passengers and crew perished. None of the circus animals survived.

For his heroic efforts to save lives during the fire, Captain Reed was awarded a purse of \$700 and several years later was appointed the harbormaster at Saint John Harbor.

Reference:

Snow, Edward Rowe, "Marine Mysteries and Dramatic Disasters of New England", Dodd, Mead & Company, New York, 1976, pp. 163-167.



The Elephant and the Inferno. From <https://thelostvalley.blogspot.com/2015/01/inferno-at-sea-1836-loss-of-saint-john.html>.

ROBERTSON'S RANT

DECLARATION OF ARBROATH

by James E. Fargo, FSA Scot

The victory of King Robert over King Edward II at Bannockburn in June 1314 did not bring peace to Scotland. The English were stubborn and a border war continued within the arbitrary frontier between both countries. Scottish armies went south to bring war to England's northern shires and gained plunder, with those shires buying peace when they could.

King Robert had been excommunicated by Pope Clement V but on that pope's death and with the election of Pope John XXII, the Church tried to establish a truce between England and Scotland. Two cardinals were sent to Westminster and two to Edinburgh ordering both kings to stop the warfare. Bruce refused to accept the Pope's letters as they were addressed to the governor of Scotland and not to its king. He was once more excommunicated in 1317 and the cardinals had to leave Scotland as no Scots clerics were willing to deliver the papal bull to their king.

Berwick was captured by the Scots in the Spring of 1318, and King Edward began preparations to lead an army north to retake the town. He had permission from the Pope that he could pay his army with a crusade tithe previously raised and promised to the Pope. The Pope wanted peace between the two countries so they would both support his proposed crusade to the Holy Land. In June 1319 Edward's army reached and laid siege to Berwick but was unable to retake the town. A two-year truce was agreed to, but Edward would not acknowledge Scotland's independence. In January 1320, Pope John XXII ordered Bruce and his bishops to appear at the papal court at Avignon. The papal letters were again addressed to the Governor of Scotland and not to King Robert, so again were refused. Another papal bull of excommunication was issued.

Bruce called an assembly of lords and barons to convene at Arbroath Abbey to direct an appeal to the Pope. The resulting document asked for the pope's intervention in the quarrel between the Scots and the English over their independence from England and to recognize Bruce as King of Scots. Sealed by eight earls and forty-five barons on April 6, 1320, the Declaration of Arbroath set the will of the people above the King and stipulated that if he betrayed them, he would be removed and replaced. It also affirmed the independence of Scotland and their right to freedom and their duty to defend it with their lives. An ulterior motive was to encourage the Pope to believe that if the Scots no longer feared an English invasion, they would participate in the proposed crusade.



Arbroath Abbey, August 2003. Photo by Norman Dunkinson.

DECLARATION OF ARBROATH (CONTINUED)

The Earl of Atholl (David, 11th Earl) did not attend the assembly as he was a supporter of King John Balliol and was residing in England. His estates in Atholl had been forfeit to the crown after his traitorous attack on Bruce's baggage train the night before the Battle of Bannockburn.

Pope John XXII finally recognized Bruce as being the King of Scots in 1324.

Postscript: While certainly the Declaration of Arbroath was a source, there is also a case for the Magna Carta (June 1215) being an important source for the drafters of the American Declaration of Independence. The Magna Carta was basically a peace treaty between King John and his barons who were upset with the high taxes, arbitrary justice and the endless foreign wars in France. Among the 63 clauses, was the promise

(clause 14) that the king would only raise taxes after approval by "the common counsel of our realm". More importantly, clause 39 stated that "No free man is to be arrested or imprisoned ... except by the legal judgment of his peers or by the law of the land." In addition, if the king was to "transgress against any of the articles of peace", the barons (the community of the realm) added

clause 51 which gave them the power to override the king when he abused that authority and the king was subject to and had to obey the laws as well. It even dealt with Scotland in that King Alexander's sisters and other hostages would be released from ransom (clause 59). A month later, King John wrote to Pope Innocent III asking him to annul the Magna Carta and release him from his agreement. The Pope agreed, declared it "null and void", and excommunicated the rebellious barons.

References:

Magnusson, Magnus, "Scotland, The Story of a Nation", Grove Press, NY, 2000, pp. 187-190.

Prebble, John, "The Lion in the North", Penguin Books, 1981, pp. 109-111.



The Declaration of Arbroath. From <https://www.historiamag.com/10-things-about-the-declaration-of-arbroath/>.



From <https://best-scottish-tours.blogspot.com/2007/08/best-scottish-humor-thrifty-scots.html>.

**CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY
MID-ATLANTIC BRANCH**

19354 Barrens Rd. S.
Stewartstown, PA 17363
Email: ngdiv@verizon.net

The Clan Donnachaidh Society is a world-wide organization dedicated to the preservation of our Highland heritage. Membership is open to those persons bearing recognized sept surnames and their descendants and spouses.

Membership in the parent Clan Donnachaidh Society in Scotland includes a subscription to the Clan Donnachaidh Annual.

Membership in the Mid-Atlantic Branch of the Clan Donnachaidh Society includes a subscription to the Branch newsletter, Robertson's Rant, published quarterly and containing listings of Highland Games and Celtic Festivals throughout the Mid-Atlantic region, Game and Festival reports, historical and biographical articles, and news items of interest to Donnachaidhs everywhere. Membership also includes an open invitation to join your fellow society members at the Clan Donnachaidh Tent and Diner at numerous Games and Festivals, and at other activities including the annual Scottish Christmas Walk and Clan Donnachaidh luncheon in the Old Town section of Alexandria, Virginia, in early December.

Parent Society membership dues are \$25.00 per year (individual) and \$35.00 per year (family = two persons/same address). Mid-Atlantic Branch membership dues are \$20.00 per year (individual).

CELTIC EVENTS & GAMES—2025 (FIRST HALF OF SEASON)

| <u>Event Name</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Tartan Day Celebration | Bethel Park, PA | TBD |
| Dills Celtic Festival | Dillsburg, PA | Apr 12th |
| Southern Maryland Celtic Festival | St. Leonard, MD | Apr 26th |
| Colonial Highland Gathering | Fair Hill, MD | May 17th |
| Garrett County Celtic Festival | Friendsville, MD | Jun 7th |
| Carroll County Celtic Festival | Westminster, MD | Jun 14th-15th |
| Wild & Wonderful Celtic Festival | Beverly, WV | Jun 21st |
| Celtic Fling & Highland Games | Manheim, PA | Jun 28th-29th |