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

SOUTHERN MARYLAND GAMES REPORT

by Jim Fargo

On Saturday, April 27th, the clan van arrived at the Jefferson-Patterson Park in Saint Leonard, Maryland for the 45th annual Southern Maryland Celtic Festival. **Robert Knight** and I along with President **Sam Kistler** and **Jerry Vandenberg** soon had the van unloaded. We quickly set up our double tent layout between Clan Donald and Clan Douglas. Soon after, clan folk began to arrive to join us for the day's festivities.

It was a typical cold, breezy and cloudy "Scottish" day with the temperature in the mid-50s with off and on drizzles. The overall games attendance was about what we expected – lots of people for the first local D.C. area Celtic event of the year.

We made it to the clan parade staging area this year on time, with six of us participating in the opening ceremonies. After the parade, we returned to our tents to find a large contingent of clan folk huddled together awaiting our return and socializing with various liquid refreshments in an attempt to keep warm.

We welcomed a number of members and guests along with their families to the clan tent including **Alex Duncan**; **Evan Duncan**; **Grant Graessle**; **Steve Hoffman** and family; the **Katan family**; **Ern Malcolm**; and Gary Houge and his family who joined Evan, Robert and I for the parade. In addition to the regular attendees, we signed up new member **Stephen Robertson**, collected renewals and gave out applications to a number of potential new clan society members, one of which, **Siobhan Williams**, is a piper with the Washington Scottish Pipe Band and was playing the Atholl Highlander pipe tune while she led the procession bringing the haggis to our neighboring clan Donald tent!

Watching the highland games events were especially noteworthy as we had **Justin Pearce** on the field participating again this year. While Justin was doing well, I was unable to find out his results before we left at 6:30pm.

This is one of the best organized Celtic festivals in our region and Sam and I believe everyone had a good time and enjoyed themselves. We will be back with our double tent setup again next year on April 26, 2025. Hope you can join us there!



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<u>Branch Officers</u> President: Sam Kistler Vice President: Tom Due Secretary/Treasurer: Norman Dunkinson



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CEAD MILE FAILTE-100,000 WELCOMES!

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

Ron Bentz

Gary Hogue

Patrick Macrae

Harry L. Robertson Jr.

Stephen P. Robertson

Matthew S. Robinson

Eugene J. Wikle III



Clan Donnachaidh at the Southern Maryland Celtic Festival, St. Leonard, Maryland, April 27, 2024.

SCOTS HUMOR

A TV reporter for the Heartline station in Pitlochry was interviewing a couple named Duncan who had just celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary. The reporter asked, "What is your secret to such a long and happy marriage?"

Mrs. Duncan replied, "We never hated each other on the same day."

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BATTLE OF SARK-1448

by James E. Fargo, FSA Scot

The Battle of Sark, also called the Battle of Lochmaben Stone, was another in a long series of battles between the English and Scotland. The events leading up to this Scottish victory began in May 1448 when Lord Henry Percy of Northumberland destroyed the city of Dunbar. The Scots responded by attacking and burning the city of Alnwick and the English retaliated in turn by burning Dumfries in June.

In October 1448, a Scots army led by William Douglas, 8th Earl of Douglas, destroyed the towns of Warkworth and Alnwick. King Henry VI authorized the Earl of Northumberland to seek revenge for this latest attack by leading a major force of 6,000 men into Scotland. They were opposed by Hugh Douglas, Earl of Ormonde and Sir John Wallace of Craigie Castle with their mustered force of 4,000 men from Annandale and Nithsdale. The English camped in a tidal waterway between the River Sark and the Kirtle Water. The battle site is located southwest of modern Gretna on the north shore of the River Esk and is marked by the Lochmaben Stone.

On October 23rd the battle began in the usual way with flights of English arrows fired into the assembled Scots. Rather than stand and accept these volleys, the Scots charged with their pikes, broke the English ranks in hand-to-hand combat, and forced their enemies into retreat as the tide rose. Hemmed in by these tidal waterways, an estimated 500 of the English men-at-arms were drowned in their plate armor in the River Esk as they fled. Total casualties vary from 2,000 to 3,000 English killed and drowned compared to between 26 and 600 Scots.

This was the first Scots victory over the English since the Battle of Otterburn sixty years earlier in 1388. Fortunately for Scotland, the War of the Roses began in 1452 and the resulting warfare among the English, gave a respite to Scotland.

Postscript: At this time, the royal authority in Scotland was being undermined by the rising power of the Douglases. King James II was a minor and didn't begin ruling in his own right until 1450. A year later, King James II erected our 4th chief's lands into the Barony of Struan in recognition of Robert's capture of the regicides that had murdered his father, King James I.



Battle of Sark, miniature from a manuscript of the Chronicle of Charles VII, king of France, c. 1470s. From https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Battle_of_Sark.

References:

Multiple Wikipedia searches www.scotlandsfinest.nl Henderson, Jan-Andrew, "The Town Below the Ground", Mainstream Publishing Company, 2008, p. 18

KENNETH LEWIS ROBERTS (1885-1957)

By James E. Fargo, FSA Scot

Kenneth Lewis Roberts was born in Kennebunk, Maine on December 8, 1885. His parents were Frank Lewis Roberts and Grace Mary (Tibbets) Roberts, both born in 1840.

Roberts graduated from Cornell University in 1908 and later married his wife Anna.

His early writing career as a journalist for the Boston Post ended with his 1917 enlistment in the U.S. Army as an intelligence officer. As a lieutenant/captain, he wrote reports for the American Expeditionary Force in Siberia during the Russian Civil War. After the war, he became nationally known as a journalist with the Saturday Evening Post from 1919 to 1928.

Roberts' built an estate in Kennebunkport which was named 'Rocky Pasture'. His neighbor was author Booth Tarkington, whom he met in 1919. Tarkington convinced Roberts that he would not succeed as a novelist unless he gave up working for the Post and devoted full time to writing historical fiction. His literary success followed. He received an honorary doctorate from Dartmouth in 1934. By 1937 his book 'Northwest Passage' was a best seller and in 1938 he received honorary degrees from both Middlebury and Bowdoin colleges.

There were four books in the 'Chronicles of Arundel' series (1929-34): 'Arundel'; 'Lively Lady'; 'Rabble in Arms'; and 'Captain Caution'. His other notable books were: 'Northwest Passage' (1937); 'Oliver Wiswell' (1940); 'Lydia Bailey' (1947); and 'Boon Island' (1956). In addition he wrote seventeen nonfiction books between 1921 and 1957. His last historical novel, 'The Battle of Cowpens', was a brief history of that American victory fought on January 17, 1781 between American and British forces in South Carolina. It was published posthumously in January 1958.

Three of Roberts' books were made into movies: 'Northwest Passage', 'Captain Caution' and 'Lydia Bailey'. Caution and Bailey were 'B' movies starring Victor Mature and Dale Robertson. Northwest Passage was a 1940 MGM black-andwhite film staring Spencer Tracy as Major Robert Rogers, the leader of an independent company of Rangers serving with the British army during the seven year's war in North America.

Two months before he died on July 21, 1957, Roberts received a Pulitzer Prize Special Citation for "his historical novels which have long contributed to the creation of greater interest in our early American history." Roberts is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.



Kenneth Lewis Roberts. From https:// www.britannica.com/biography/Kenneth-Roberts.

References:

Multiple Wikipedia searches

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JAMES HENRY NEEL REED (1884-1968)

By Ripley Williams and James E. Fargo, FSA Scot

Around the turn of the 20th century, well before the availability of any sort of electronic entertainment, coal miners in southern West Virginia would hire musicians to play for their weekend dances. Much as their ancestors in the British Isles and the European Continent had done for generations. Two of these musicians were Henry and Josh Reed.

Joshua H. Reed and James Henry Neel Reed were two of the seven children of John Marion Reed and Sophia Catherine Underwood. Henry Reed was born on April 28, 1884 near Peterstown, Monroe County, West Virginia. Henry's father had come from Ireland as a child, with his father to the U.S. around 1845 and the spelling of the family's last name was changed from Reid to Reed.

Henry Reed grew up in various places in southern West Virginia and southwestern Virginia. Henry learned local tunes dating back generation from neighbors and friends. One, which Henry gave no name to but likely learned from one Quince Dillion, has come to be known as "Quince Dillion's High-D Reel". Quince Dillion, born around 1826, had served as a fifer in the American Civil War.

Henry and Nettie Ann Virginia Mullins were married on December 11, 1907 and they lived in numerous locations in West Virginia and southwestern Virginia until they settled down in their final home in Glen Lyn, Virginia in 1941.

Reed played the fiddle, banjo, and harmonica. Although he never made commercial records, his music was recorded during 1966-67 by Duke University graduate student Alan Jabbour on multiple occasions at the Reed home in Glen Lyn. Reed's catalog of songs became popular as old-time music had a revival in the late 20th century. (The late Dr. Alan Jabbour was the founding director of the American Folklife Center in the U.S. Library of Congress.) The tune which Henry Reed called, "Over the Waterfall", is now a fiddle standard. Dr. Jabbour asserted that Henry Reed was the only known source of this tune in North America, and it is likely a version of an English tune know as "Mercian Tittery-Ary-A." It is also the melody for several other old songs. Henry Reed himself said



Josh and Henry Reed, ca. 1903. Henry Reed, age 19, plays banjo and his older brother Josh, age 33, plays fiddle. Photograph from the collection of James Reed. Now part of the collection of the Library of Congress.

Josh and Henry Reed.

he learned it when he was a young boy from performers in a traveling show called "Teet's Show", probably a circus or medicine show of some type. If not for Henry Reed and Alan Jobbour, this tune might have been lost.

Another of Henry Reed's fiddle tunes is one he called "Love Somebody". It is the well-known Scottish tune "My Love

JAMES HENRY NEEL REED (CONTINUED)

Is But a Lassie Yet", but with the A and B Parts swapped.

Many of Reed's collection of Henry Reed's recordings, transcriptions and field notes are available on the Library of Congress website under "Fiddle Tunes of the Old Frontier: the Henry Reed Collection".

Henry Reed died on February 8, 1968 in Glen Lyn, Virginia at the age of 84. He is buried beside his wife Nettie at Birchlawn Burial Park in Pearisburg, Virginia.

Annually, there is a Henry Reed Memorial Fiddlers Convention held during the month of June at various sites in Giles County, Virginia.

Postscript: We both thank banjo player, Bob Stepno, who stopped by our clan tent at the Radford Highlanders Scottish Festival in October of 2023 and made me aware of Henry Reed and his contributions in collecting and playing our old-time music heritage. My thanks to clansman Ripley Williams, for his assistance in preparing this article and who learned a few of Henry Reed's fiddle tunes from Dr. Alan Jabbour.

References and sources:

Https://www/loc.gov/collections/henry-reed-fiddle-tunes/about-this-collection/ Henryreed.org West Virginia Public Broadcasting website familysearch.org

ANGLO SAXON CHRONICLES

By Jim Fargo

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles provide an historic account of the early Anglo-Saxon kingdoms from 60 BC taken from earlier monastic manuscripts and Anglo-Saxon oral poetry traditions, which were then compiled by monks beginning in the 890s. The various Chronicles were then maintained as a continuous history until they end with the coronation of King Henry II in 1154. As part of that monastic written history, the interaction of England with the kingdom of Scots is recorded. According to the various early Anglo-Saxon Chronicles:

In 367, the Roman built Hadrian's Wall was overwhelmed by the Picts.

In 603, Aedan, king of the Irish/Scots kingdom of Dalriada fought against Aethelfrith, king of Northumbria and almost all his host was slain. Thereafter, no king of the Scots dared lead a host against this nation.

In the year 685, King Ecgfrith of Northumbria was slain to the north of the sea (the Firth of Forth) on May 20, and a great host with him (the battle of Nechtansmere) by an army led by Brude, King of the Picts. Ecgfrith was king for fifteen years and Aldfrith, his brother, succeeded to the kingdom. King Aldfrith passed away on December 14, 705 and his son Osred succeeded to the kingdom.

In the year 710 ealdorman Beorhtfrith fought and defeated the Picts between the Haefe (River Avon, Linlithgow) and Caere River (River Carron, Sterlingshire).

In 789 came the first three ships of Northmen. These were the first ships of the Danes to come to England. In 793,

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ANGLO SAXON CHRONICLES (CONTINUED)

Lindisfarne and the monastery at Jarrow were sacked.

In 923, Constantine II, King of Scots (900-942), and the whole Scottish nation accepted King Edward the Confessor as 'father and lord', as did the inhabitants of Northumbria under King Raegnald. King Edward died in 924 and his son Athelstan came to the throne.

In 933 King Athelstan invaded Scotland with a land and naval force, and harried much of the country. Again in 937, King Athelstan destroyed a combined army of Scots and Norsemen led by Olaf at the Battle of Brunanburh.



Lindisfarne Priory. From https://www.coolplaces.co.uk/places/uk/9638-lindisfarne-priory.

In 945, King Edmund, brother

of Athelstan, ravaged all Strathclyde and ceded it to Malcolm I, King of Scots (942-954), on the condition that he would be his fellow worker both by sea and land.

In 1016, Cnut became the first Danish king of all England. In 1027, King Cnut went to Scotland, and Malcolm II, King of Scots (1005-1034), submitted to him and became his vassal, but maintained his allegiance for but a short time.

In 1034, King Malcolm II passed away and was succeeded by his grandson, Duncan I, King of Scots (which then united the kingdoms of Scotia, Lothian and Strathclyde under one king). On November 12 1035, King Cnut passed and Harold was elected as regent then became king in 1037. Both King Cnut and King Duncan I died in 1040.

In 1054, Earl Siward of Northumbria marched from York with a great host, by land and sea, into Scotland and made great slaughter of Scots and put them to flight, but their king, MacBeth, escaped. (This invasion was to install Duncan's son, Malcolm, on the throne and in 1057 MacBeth was defeated and slain at battle of Lumphanan).

In 1065, Earl Tostig of Northumbria, brother of Earl Harold, was outlawed by his thanes and fled south to France. King Edward 'the Confessor' died at Christmas and was buried on January 6, 1066. Earl Harold was consecrated king at Easter and ruled for forty weeks and a day.

Earl Tostig sailed to Scotland with his Flemish supporters where Malcolm III, King of Scots (ruled 1058-1093) helped him to obtained provisions and there he stayed the whole summer awaiting the arrival of Norwegian king Harold Hard-

ANGLO SAXON CHRONICLES (CONTINUED)

rada with three hundred ships and their combined forces then attacked York and defeated the local levies on September 20. King Harold Godwineson marched his English army north and defeated them at Stamford Bridge on September 27. In the meantime Duke William of Normandy, kinsman of King Edward, sailed and landed at Hastings on September 28. King Harold marched south with his remaining forces and was defeated and slain on October 14 at Hastings. William was consecrated as king on Christmas Day, 1066.

In the summer of 1067, Prince Edgar and his family fled England and took sanctuary with King Malcolm III in Scotland. Prince Edgar tried to retake the kingdom with Northumbrian support in 1069, was defeated and returned to the safety of Scotland. Malcolm married Edgar's sister, Margaret, in 1069, although against her will.

In 1072, King William came north with naval forces to blockade the Forth and land forces to invade the kingdom. King Malcolm III made his peace with William, gave hostages and became his vassal. King William and his army returned to England.

In 1079 King Malcolm III came into England with a great army, ravaged Northumbrian land up to the Tyne, killed many hundreds of men, and took home much plunder. (Malcolm Canmore's goal was to extend the Scottish kingdom southward



Portrait of Malcolm III and Margaret, from the Forman Armorial (1562). From https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Malcolm_III_of_Scotland.

while William the Conqueror was preoccupied with consolidating his control over England.)

In 1080, Angus Earl of Moray was slain by the army of Scots and great was the slaughter there of his companions. (At this time, King Malcolm was attempting to extend his northern frontier into the highlands.)

In 1091, while King William Rufus was out of England, King Malcolm III ravaged a great part and returned to Scotland. William in Normandy heard this, returned and led his levies to Lothian in England. The kings were reconciled so that King Malcolm became his vassal in all such service as his father did.

In 1093, King William broke their treaty, so King Malcolm led an army into Northumbria to ravage the earldom. The English attacked and both Malcolm and his eldest son Edward were killed in an ambush at Alnwick, thus ended his fifth invasion of England.

In 1097, the atheling Edgar, brother to Queen Margaret, went with troops into Scotland, drove out the usurper king Donald II and restored the throne to Queen Margaret's son Edgar as king and vassal to King William Rufus.

In 1100, Henry I, brother of the murdered King William Rufus, became King of England and later that same year mar-

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ANGLO SAXON CHRONICLES (CONTINUED)

ried King Edgar's sister Matilda.

In 1126, David, King of Scots, came to England and spent Christmas with King Henry and stayed a whole year. (King David succeeded his brother Alexander I who had reigned from 1107-1124. During his reign, Alexander had been focused on quelling rebellions in Moray.)

In 1138, David, King of Scotland, invaded with immense levies, determined to conquer it. They (Northumbria) fought against them at York, and put the king to flight and slew a great number of his host at the Battle of the Standard. On King Henry II death in 1135, the Chronicles recorded the long struggle for the English throne between the supporters of King Stephen (Henry's nephew) and the Empress Matilda (daughter of Henry and the niece of King David). Although the Scots had been beaten, Stephen was still too hard pressed to take advantage of his victory. By signing the Treaty of Durham in 1139, Stephen eliminated his northern threat and gave the whole of Northumbria except for the fortresses of Newcastle and Bamburgh to King David.

In May 1152, Henry married the Eleanor of Aquitaine. In August 1153, Henry and King Stephen negotiated a settlement to end the English civil war and the treaty of Westminster in December decided that on King Stephen's death, Henry would be heir.

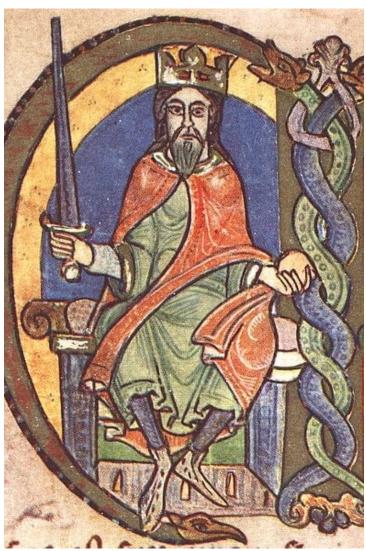
In October 1154, King Stephen died and was succeeded by Empress Maud's son Henry.

The Chronicles ended.

In 1157, young King Malcolm IV of Scotland was diplomatically forced to cede Cumberland, Westmorland and Northumbria to King Henry II of England to avoid war and in return was given the honour of Huntington. Peace with England allowed King Malcolm IV to quell internal rebellions in Galloway, Argyll and Moray.

References:

Bingham, Caroline, "Kings and Queens of Scotland", Dorset Press, NY, 1976 Garmonsway, G. N., "The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle", J. M. Dent Ltd, London, 1992 Savage, Anne, "The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles", Macmillan Publishers, London, 1982



An illustration of David I of Scotland (r. 1124-1153 CE) from the 1159 CE charter of Kelso Abbey. From https://www.worldhistory.org/ image/13188/david-i-of-scotland/.

UNDERGROUND EDINBURGH

by Jim Fargo

In my book buying travels throughout the northern Shenandoah Valley, I occasionally find a Scottish treasure! In January 2024, I acquired the book "The Town Below the Ground" by Jan-Andrew Henderson.

For those of you who do not know the history of the underground city beneath Edinburgh, this book provides a concise history from its beginning to the current day.

Briefly, it's location is due to Edinburgh Castle being built on a basalt plug and the city with its Royal Mile stretching eastward down to Holyrood with steep inclines on both sides. The city itself is built on a ridge of soft sandstone which made it easy as the city population grew for cellars and caves to be constructed for living quarters, storage, illegal smuggling, etc. The wooden tenements built on both sides of the Royal Mile from the Lawnmarket, down the High Street to the Canongate by Holyrood House reached heights of 130 feet high, but on the back side of the houses lower levels were carved out sideways into the sandstone over the course of centuries. Thus the ground level floor on High Street could be several stories high at the back.

In October 1448 the English were beaten at the Battle of Sark near Gretna, but fearing another invasion, King James II granted a petition from the citizens of Edinburgh to build a defensive wall around the town. The northern pastures were flooded to become the North Loch which is now the Princess Street Gardens. As the new defensive wall of 1450 kept people within the walls, eventually overcrowding became a problem and buildings were torn down so tall tenements (called 'lands") could be built to ease the increasing population.

After the disastrous defeat at Flodden in 1513, the city quickly built the Flodden Wall to completely enclose the city from an expected English attack that never came. Remaining within the wall for safety essentially trapped the citizenry inside.

The last invasion of Edinburgh came with the arrival of Bonnie Prince Charlie in 1745 on his way to England and his subsequent return north to eventual defeat at Culloden.

Between 1765 and 1833 the second underground city took shape. Five bridges were built from the central part of the Old Town to connect the seven hills surrounding the Old Town and level out the ravines between them. Five of these hills (Moultree's Hill, Bunker's Hill, St. John's Hill, St. Leonard's Hill and Herriot Hill) are still there but hidden from view. The first bridge to be completed, the North Bridge, opened in 1772 and was supported by three main arches, two smaller ones and masked vaults. Each of these bridges with their underground vaults and chambers were separated by tunnels and were initially supposed to be used as cellars and storerooms for merchants and shop-keepers, but eventually became overcrowded slums.

As the wealthy citizens moved from the Old Town into the New Town to the north, new immigrants from Ireland and the highlands flocked to Edinburgh for jobs as the industrial and agricultural revolutions had caused massive unemployment in the countryside. Between 1800-1830 it was reported that the city population doubled.

Robert Louis Stevenson described Old Town Edinburgh as "for all the world like a rabbit warren, not only by the number of its dwellers but the complication of its passage and holes".

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UNDERGROUND EDINBURGH (CONTINUED)

The beginning of the end for the underground city came in 1824 with the disastrous "Great Fire of Edinburgh" within the dense packed wooden tenements lining the upper Royal Mile. It took 3 days to put the fire out. Many of the tallest and most dangerous tenements were gone. To prevent future fires, other cramped and crowded tenements began to be pulled down and replaced, the vaults and bridges were evacuated and sealed, old cellars filled in or built over and the poorer citizens who could not afford the newly built houses were encouraged to move outside the Old Town.

Nowadays, visitors can take guided tours of some portions of this underground city, such as Mary King's Close below the Edinburgh City Council Chambers, Marlin's Wynd beneath the Tron Kirk on the Royal Mile, and visit pubs located within were the South Bridge vaults.

Reference:

Henderson, Jan-Andrew, "The Town Below the Ground", Mainstream Publishing Company, Edinburgh, 2008, pp. 1-76



Mary King's Close. From https://www.tripadvisor.com/ Attraction_Review-g186525-d191321-Reviews-The_Real_Mary_King_s_Close-Edinburgh_Scotland.html.



Marlin's Wynd. From https://www.meetingedinburgh.com/Unusual-Venues-of-Edinburgh-Marlins-Wynd-762.



North Bridge, Edinburgh. From https:// www.filmedinburgh.org/ Locations/North-Bridge-102.



The first, *and* last appearance of the **mini-kilt.**

From https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/3518505949400782/.

CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY MID-ATLANTIC BRANCH

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

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

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

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

CELTIC EVENTS & GAMES-2024

Event Name	Location	<u>Date</u>
Colonial Highland Gathering	Fair Hill, MD	May 18th
Garrett County Celtic Festival	Friendsville, MD	Jun 1st
Carroll County Celtic Festival	Westminster, MD	Jun 8th
Wild & Wonderful Celtic Festival	Beverly, WV	Jun 15th
Celtic Fling & Highland Games	Manheim, PA	Jun 22nd-23rd
Virginia Scottish Games & Festival	The Plains, VA	Aug 31st-Sept 1st
Edinboro Highland Games & Scottish Festival	Edinboro, PA	Sep 7th
Covenanter Scottish Festival	Quarryville, PA	Sep 7th
Ligonier Highland Festival	Ligonier, PA	Sep 14th