



The **Spur** and **Phoenix** Summer 2007



Chief: The Right Honourable Earl of Annandale and Hartfell



*E.J., Nick, Micah, Jackie & Denny Johnston at the MN State Capitol.*

**A Scottish Invasion in Minnesota**

*By Jackie Johnston*

Tartan Day activities took place in many cities throughout the United States from large celebrations in New York to small dinner parties in New Hampshire. This year, Tartan Day was on Good Friday so many activities took place during the week before or the week after.

The Minnesota's Tartan Day Cooperative, which is a group of 14 Scottish organizations, did something different. It held a Scottish Invasion week leading up to Tartan Day. It began with a march and program at the Minnesota State Capitol where Scots gathered in their fine attire and carried banners in recognition of the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath.

After the event at the capitol, the celebration continued with a dinner and ceilidh. Throughout the week, Scots were asked to wear their tartans everywhere they went to raise awareness of Tartan Day and all that it stands for. One police officer received permission to wear his full Scottish attire on Tartan Day while on duty. One couple went to many famous locations in Minneapolis wearing their Scottish dress and made a scrapbook full of photos of all the places. Dee Johnston wore her tartan scarf and clan badge to work everyday for a week at Verizon Wireless, where she works as a receptionist. She answered a lot of questions and met some fellow Scots in the process and had a chance to tell people about upcoming Scottish events. This wasn't bad for a state most known for its Scandinavian and German population. The Scottish population may be small but it is very dedicated.

The week ended with the grand opening of the new Scottish American Center in New Brighton. *(See article elsewhere in this newsletter.)*

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**Important Notice  
From the Editor**

*\* Please read the newly adopted news-  
letter policies in the winter 2006 issue  
for information on submitting articles.*

*\* When sending photos with an article,  
please send them as attachments, in the  
body of an email or by mail. Photos from  
Word documents do not reproduce well.*

**Next Newsletter Deadline  
August 4, 2007**

**Summer 2007  
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you have a change of  
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correct address, the  
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Clan Johnston/e in America produces the *Spur & Phoenix* on a non-profit basis for the information of its member. The Newsletter Editor has compiled the contents with due care and in good faith from sources that are believed to be genuine and accurate. The views expressed by any of the authors of articles are not necessarily those of the Newsletter Editor, the Council or the members of Clan Johnston/e in America.

*Clan badge designs, copyright  
Romilly Squire & Gaelic Themes*

## Presidents Report



Greetings! I hope warmer weather has finally arrived for everyone, and I hope you're able to enjoy it. I also hope you're making plans (or have already made them) to attend our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on July 27 at the Holiday Inn in Renton, WA. Our AGM is being held in conjunction with the Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games that weekend in Enumclaw, WA, at the northwestern base of Mt. Rainier. Additional information is available in this and previous issues of the *Spur and Phoenix*, or from our VP-West, Lindsey Johnstone at [lnj53@comcast.net](mailto:lnj53@comcast.net).

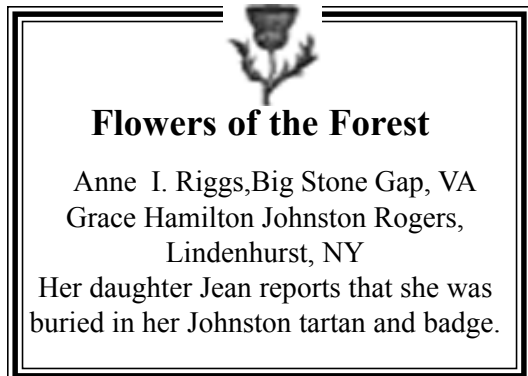
By the time you receive this issue of the *Spur and Phoenix*, we will be well into the peak season for Scottish games in the U.S. and Canada. That's not to say that there isn't a Scottish games on any given weekend somewhere on the continent — for example, most of the Scottish games in Florida are in the winter (yet another Florida attraction). But our Clan Johnston/e in America (CJA) tent sponsors are especially busy this time of year. Many thanks to all of you tent sponsors, and to our National Membership Commissioner, Debra Johnston, who coordinates our tent sponsoring efforts!

I hope each of you will be able this year to attend at least one Scottish games or festival where CJA sponsors a clan tent. Clan tents, and especially the CJA clan tent, are full of information, fun, food, and fellowship. So please visit the CJA clan tent at a Scottish games, hang out, and help out! You'll find a list of Scottish games with CJA tents listed in the *Spur and Phoenix* and on our web site, [www.clanjohnston.org](http://www.clanjohnston.org).

You may be aware that there are many Scottish games in the U.S. and Canada where CJA is not represented, and that a CJA clan tent is the major point of entry for many folks into our organization. If there is a major Scottish games in your area, broadly defined, where CJA is not represented and you would be willing to help sponsor a CJA clan tent next year, please let me ([sajscot@aol.com](mailto:sajscot@aol.com)) or Debra (641-227-3477) know. We can arrange for help in this effort, and we have a list of tent sponsor guidelines available that we can send you. We do prefer that you visit a CJA clan tent at a Scottish games prior to becoming a tent sponsor.

On a related note, our current fiscal year is rapidly drawing to a close (September 30), and you'll need to be thinking of renewing your membership for next year unless you are a life member. I certainly hope you do renew, and do so promptly. If you know of any members who have passed away this year or who have moved and you know their address, please notify our Registrar, Margot Johnston at [lucknbooth@aol.com](mailto:lucknbooth@aol.com). I'd also like to challenge each of you to recruit *at least one* new member into CJA for the coming fiscal year. If you miss that target, I'd like for you to consider giving a membership in CJA as a Christmas present, birthday present or just for the thrill of it!

Yours Aye,  
Steve Johnston



## Cead Mile Falte

*A hundred thousand welcomes to our new members.*

M/M David R. Johnston	Glen Ellyn,	IL
Ms Elizabeth Riggs-Mcnabb	Roanoke,	VA
Ms Cindy Hunt	Wellington,	FL
John Johnston	Henderson,	NV
J. Atwood Taylor, III	Vero Beach,	FL
Mrs. Marcia Hoover	Olympia,	WA
Ms Kathryn Leary	Wilbraham,	MA
Jimmy W. Johnston, Jr	Seffner,	FL
Fr James A. Johnson	Murphy,	NC
Brad Benedict	Farmington,	UT
M/M Gregory Coblentz	Clifton,	CO

**Annual General Meeting: July 27, 2007  
Renton, Washington**

The Clan Johnston/e in America (CJA) Council has selected the **Seattle Scottish Highland Games and Clan Gathering** to be host site for the 2007 Annual General Meeting (AGM) this coming summer. These games are held at the King County Fairgrounds, Enumclaw, Washington, July 28th & 29th, 2007. For more information about the Seattle Scottish Highland Games and Clan Gathering, see their website at [www.sshga.org](http://www.sshga.org)

**The CJA AGM and Banquet** will be held at the Renton Holiday Inn Select Spruce Room. Please complete the registration form at the bottom of this page and mail it along with your check to the CJA AGM 2007 Committee by June 1, 2007. Our banquet this year will feature a selection of foods from the renowned buffet tables of the Renton Holiday Inn Select.

**Hotel Accommodations and Car Rentals:** A number of double rooms are available for July 27 - 29 at a special group rate of \$99.00 (plus tax) at the Renton Holiday Inn Select. The hotel has free shuttles to and from Sea-Tac Airport. Call Theresa Berry at her direct line of 425-254-7225 or email her at [tberry@hirenton.com](mailto:tberry@hirenton.com). When you call or email, let the hotel know you are with **Clan Johnston/e in America** to receive these special rates. The group rates are available until July 13<sup>th</sup>.

There are special **car rental** rates available through the hotel. Additionally, the hotel rates are good for three days before and three days after our event.

*Renton Holiday Inn Select; One South Grady Way Renton, WA 98055 [www.hirenton.com](http://www.hirenton.com)*

**For an information packet of interesting things to do in and around Seattle while you visit, please call Theresa Berry at her direct line of 425-254-7225 or email her at [tberry@hirenton.com](mailto:tberry@hirenton.com).**



**CJA AGM & Banquet 2007**

**Friday, July 27th, 6:30 pm to 10:00 pm**

**COST PER PERSON: \$50.00 (Includes AGM Banquet & Administrative Costs)**

No Host bar Available

Please register by July 1, 2007.

Makes checks payable to *Clan Johnston/e in America* and mail it along with this form to:  
CJA AGM Committee 2007, 2119 Aberdeen Avenue NE, Renton, Washington 98056



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please let us know if you have special dietary needs.**

**Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$50.00 X number of guests attending)**

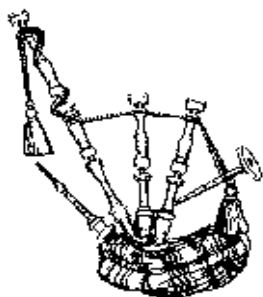
**Please indicate the names of the people attending:**


## 2007 Events

Please send event information to [info@clanjohnston.org](mailto:info@clanjohnston.org) for future events.

**For more information on locations, clan hosts and contact information, visit our website at [www.clanjohnston.org](http://www.clanjohnston.org)**

- 6/2/2007** 9th Annual Southern New Hampshire Scottish Games and Festival, Silver Ranch, Route 124, Jaffrey, NH Web site at [www.snhscotcelt.org](http://www.snhscotcelt.org)
- 6/8-10/2007** Annual Blairsville Scottish Festival & Highland Games, Meeks Park, Blairsville, GA Website at [www.blairsvillescottishfestival.org](http://www.blairsvillescottishfestival.org)
- 6/9/2007** Potomac Celtic Festival, U.S. 15 just a few miles north of Leesburg, VA Web site at [www.pcfest.org](http://www.pcfest.org)
- 7/12-15/2007** 52nd Grandfather Mountain Highland Games and Gathering O' Scottish Clans, MacRae Meadows, Grandfather Mountain near Linville, NC, Web site at [www.gmhg.org](http://www.gmhg.org)
- 7/14-15/2007** 13th Annual Skagit Valley Highland Games & Celtic Festival, Edgewater Park, Mount Vernon, WA, [www.celticarts.org](http://www.celticarts.org)
- 7/20-22/2007** Antigonish Highland Games, Web site at [www.antigonishhighlandgames.com](http://www.antigonishhighlandgames.com)
- 7/21-22/2007** Highlands of Durham Games, Hosted by CJA, Uzbridge, Ontario, Canada, Website at <http://highlandsofdurhamgames.com>, Contact: 1-888-253-5552,
- 7/27/2007** Clan Johnston/e in America (CJA) 2007 Annual General Meeting (AGM) (See page 4)
- 7/28-29/2007** Seattle Scottish Highland Games and Clan Gathering, King County Fairgrounds, Enumclaw, Washington Web site at [www.sshga.org](http://www.sshga.org)
- 8/3-4/2007** Glengarry Highland Games, Kenyon Agricultural Grounds, Maxville, Ontario, Canada Web site at [www.glengarryhighlandgames.com](http://www.glengarryhighlandgames.com)
- 8/10-12/2007** Fergus Highland Games, Fergus, Ontario. Web site [www.fergusscottishfestival.com](http://www.fergusscottishfestival.com)
- 8/11-12/2007** Colorado Scottish Festival and Rocky Mountain Highland Games. Highland Heritage Park, Highlands Ranch, Colorado
- 8/11/2007** Whidbey Island Games, The Greenbank Farm, Greenbank, WA, Web site at: [www.wihg.org](http://www.wihg.org)
- 9/6-9/2007** Estes Park Long's Peak Scottish Irish Festival, Recreation Fields, Estes Park, Colorado Web site at [www.scotfest.com](http://www.scotfest.com)
- 9/15/2007** Virginia Scottish Games & Gathering of Clans, Skye Meadows State Park, Delaplane, VA [www.vascottishgames.org](http://www.vascottishgames.org)
- 9/21-23/2007** New Hampshire Highland Games, Loon Mt. Recreation Area, Lincoln, NH Web site at: [www.nhscot.org](http://www.nhscot.org)
- 10/8/2007** Alexandria Scottish Heritage Festival, Fort Ward Park, Alexandria, Virginia
- 10/6/2007** 24th Annual Scottish Festival, Goshen Fairgrounds, Goshen, Ct. Contact: (860) 651-9048.
- 10/7/2007** Scotland's Highland Festival at the Edward Waldo Homestead, 96 Waldo Road, Scotland, CT. Contact; (860) 464-1339
- 10/13/2007** 16th Annual Anne Arundel Scottish Highland Games, Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds, Route 178, near Crownsville, Maryland, Web site at [www.annearun.com/aasfi](http://www.annearun.com/aasfi)
- 10/19-21/07** 35th Stone Mountain Highland Games, Stone Mountain, GA Web site at: [www.smhg.org](http://www.smhg.org)
- 10/27-28/07** Richmond Highland Games and Celtic Festival, Richmond Raceway Complex, Richmond, VA Web site at [www.richmondceltic.com/site.asp](http://www.richmondceltic.com/site.asp)
- 12/1/2007** Alexandria Christmas Walk, Alexandria, VA ,Contact: (703) 841-9190 Katherine Bailey-Mathae



**Visit the games and festivals nearest you and bring the whole family for a good time exploring your Scottish and Scots-Irish heritage!**

Tower Quiz answer: (b)

# Famous Johnstons

## Alexander and Donald - “The Whisky Johnstons”

*by Bart Johnston*



Much has been written about the origins of the distilling Johnstons of Islay (pronounced EYE la) but there is some disagreement. It seems that they probably were of MacDonald stock, MacIain of Ardnamurchan, coming from near Glencoe after the '45 when the followers of Prince Charlie were forever defeated. Shortly after began the clearances and three brothers removed to Islay in the Western Isles. It was logical that they should do so since Islay was the home to Somerled Norse-slayer, first Lord of the Isles, whose son Donald spawned Clan MacDonald, and Islay was the most fertile of the isles. There were Johnstons on Islay long before the clearances and they may have been related to or intermarried with the distillers. Brother Alexander began farming near Port Ellen and two of his sons, Alexander and Donald Johnston, leased a thousand acres for cattle near Laphroaig. They raised barley for cattle feed and it was only natural that the surplus went to distilling whisky. The water on the farm was very soft, peaty and lacking in minerals, perfect for distilling. By 1810 the reputation of their whisky had far outpaced that of the cattle and Islay was perfect for the export of illicit beverages. As the demand for their product grew, the Crown taxmen grew interested in Laphroaig and the secret was out. In 1815 they improved their distillery and became official whisky makers as 'Johnston and Johnston'. By 1826 they were officially licensed as Laphroaig.

In 1836 Donald bought out Alexander and became sole owner of Laphroaig. Unfortunately, eleven years later he fell into a 'burnt ale' vat and died, prompting our President, Steve Johnston, to remind us; "there is a little of Donald in every bottle." Son Dugald was only eleven at the time so a neighbor, Graham of Lagavullin, leased the distillery until Dugald was twenty and took over. In 1877 Dugald died and two sisters and a brother-in-law, Alexander Johnston inherited Laphroaig. Alexander ran the business until his death in 1907, when his two sisters, Mrs. William. Hunter and Miss Katherine Johnston and nephew J. Johnston Hunter, inherited the distillery. Another nephew, Ian Hunter, came to Islay to run the business.

Ever since Donald had died in 1847, Lagavullin had tried to acquire the business and production of Laphroaig. For years they had a contract for half the production and when that expired the rivalry intensified. Mackie and Co., who owned Lagavullin, disconnecting the water pipe, hired away key personnel, and tried to outbid the Johnstons on the lease and purchase price of the land. The Johnstons and Hunters were able to meet every challenge and maintain their autonomy. Indeed, by 1923 they had doubled their production.

Mr. Hunter died in 1954 and left the company to its secretary and long time employee, Miss Bessie Williamson. Thus ended the Johnston family ownership which had begun with Alexander and Donald almost 150 years earlier.

Today the company prospers and perhaps HRH Prince Charles is the Johnstons' most famous customer. In 1994 he personally visited the distillery and gave his Royal Warrant (the only whisky he has given it to). You will see his crest on every bottle. It is fitting that the current Lord of the Isles' favorite whisky is made on the home island of Somerled Norse-slayer, first Lord of the Isles. As the prince left the distillery, he said to current chief Ian Henderson; "I hope that you continue to use the traditional methods; I think you make the finest whisky in the world." It is said that Charles prefers the fifteen year old Laphroaig to all others; only fitting for a drink from a bottle which reads; "D. Johnston & Co."

## Johnston's Tavern

by Stephen Johnston

If you are traveling through Western Pennsylvania and want to see a piece of early American history of the Johnston variety,, you'll want to schedule a stop at Johnston's Tavern. Originally built in 1831 by Arthur Johnston, who had immigrated from Northern Ireland a few years earlier, it is a splendid example of the roadside tavern that flourished during the days of stage-coach travel.

Johnston's Tavern, originally called the New Lodge Inn, has been carefully restored to its original appearance by the Western Pennsylvania Conservatory and is now open to visitors as a historic property administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. It is located on the Pennsylvania Trail of History, on US 19 just south of I-80, about a mile north of Leesburg in Mercer County.

It is open during Eastern Daylight Savings Time from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays EXCEPT Monday and Tuesday and from 12:00 to 5:p.m. Sundays., and during Eastern Standard Time from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on these weekdays and from 12:00 to 4:30 p.m. Sundays. Call ahead at (412) 748-4133. Additional information is available from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17120.

[Note: Thanks to Allen Miles Johnstone for providing a brochure on Johnston's Tavern.]



## Homecoming Scotland

by Stephen Johnston

An exciting project known as "Homecoming Scotland" is underway in Scotland, which promises to be a year long celebration of Scotland and all things Scottish in 2009. Coincidentally, 2009 is also the 250th anniversary of the birth of Scotland's beloved bard, Robert Burns, so it is a fitting time to celebrate.

In order to make it the greatest celebration ever, the project is seeking data from all the Scottish clans around the world regarding what activities, etc., they would like to see included during this special year. The project sponsors would greatly appreciate if Clan Johnston/e in America members would access and complete the survey electronically at [www.homecomingsurvey.com](http://www.homecomingsurvey.com). Additional information on "Homecoming Scotland" is available on the project web site, [www.homecomingscotland.com](http://www.homecomingscotland.com).

## School for Scottish Arts Re-Opens in NC

By Stephen Johnston

After a 17-year hiatus, the School for Scottish Arts (SSA) is re-opening in NC this year. It operates in conjunction with the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.

SSA involves 6 days of intensive training in highland dance led by some of the leading dance teachers in the country, with some discussion of Scottish history and traditions during the evenings. It is a "live in" experience at a conference center, complete with bunk beds, counselors and meals. Past attendees have thoroughly enjoyed it, typically returned the following year(s), and made life-long friends there.

SSA will be held Saturday, July 7, through Thursday, July 12 in the town of Minneapolis, NC, a few miles from Grandfather Mountain and the town of Linville, NC. The end of SSA coincides with the beginning of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games with the Calling of the Spirit of the Clans, a torchlight ceremony, on Thursday night.

The re-opening of SSA has a distinct Johnston flavor. The leaders are Amy Johnston Mooney and her mother, Pat Johnston. Amy is a former SSA attendee and champion Southeastern U.S. highland dancer. Pat is the long-time Treasurer of the national highland dance association, the Federation of U.S. Teachers and Adjudicators (FUSTA). Both Amy and Pat teach highland dancing. A brochure and registration form is available from Pat at [patriciatj@aol.com](mailto:patriciatj@aol.com). Please help spread the word, and do so quickly.





## CANADA REPORTS

by Carol Koeslag

Since this will be the last issue before Summer Games really get underway I thought I'd up-date members about some of the ones in Ontario.

Unfortunately in the last issue of the S&P the Fergus Highland Games were not listed with the other Games, as it is an important one its date should be known. So Fergus Games August 10,11,12<sup>th</sup>, with the Tattoo on the evening of the 10<sup>th</sup>, competitions and Clan tents on the 11<sup>th</sup> and Kirkin' of the Tartans church service on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

I've received notices and invitations to the 44<sup>th</sup> annual Cobourg Highland Games, Sat. June 23<sup>rd</sup> and the Highlands of Durham Games Sat. July 21<sup>st</sup> in Uxbridge. The Cobourg Games are situated in the attractive town of Cobourg and though the Games are smaller and not many Clans host tents it is a pleasant site. The web site is [www.cobourghighlandgames.ca](http://www.cobourghighlandgames.ca) for more information

The Highlands of Durham Games are also in a very attractive site and all things Scottish from cattle, horses, dog breeds let alone bands and dancing competitions and a great childrens' site are available to enjoy.

Now, having said all that, CJA will not be at either of those two Games but we will be at Glengarry in Maxville and Fergus. Joe Johnston of Ottawa will host the CJA tent at Glengarry on August 4<sup>th</sup> ([www.glengarryhighlandgames.com](http://www.glengarryhighlandgames.com)) and I will be at the Fergus Games. I'm beginning to find that driving all over Ontario on summer weekends has gotten to be a bit much so this year decided to ask our most capable Canadian genealogist Joe to be responsible for the Glengarry tent.

I do hope that all CJA members living in or visiting Ontario will take advantage of the many different Games especially the Glengarry and Fergus ones where you will be warmly welcomed.

A short item from a January issue of *Macleans* magazine caught my eye and I decided it was worth sharing with all of you.

### **“Scotland: A Regiment Learns to Share**

After a recent merger of regiments into a single Royal Regiment of Scotland, troops have been faced with a serious shortage of kilts. Among more than 5,000 soldiers there are only 320 of the ceremonial garments. Officials have promised what a Ministry of Defense spokesman calls a “planned deployment of kilts by January 2008” Meantime, soldiers will have to cope through an unsettling solution: each soldier must share with 15 others”.

How about that for ‘keeping it all in the family’! Any one got any extra kilts they’d like to ship over to the Royal; Regiment of Scotland?



### **Office of Gaelic Affairs for Nova Scotia**

In a previous issue I mentioned Linden MacIntyre and the Nova Scotia Gaelic Society. In a recent issue of *Celtic Heritage* there is an interesting write-up about the newly minted Office of Gaelic Affairs for Nova Scotia. Lewis MacKinnon is the Acting CEO of this Office and indicates that though Gaelic is a key component of the identity of Scottish Highlanders and Islands descendents it is open to all Nova Scotians, a shared linguistic and cultural treasure. With this vision the Office of Gaelic Affairs is now beginning to focus on program development and support. It is working with other Gaelic groups and hopes that it will assist in the maintenance and development of the Gaelic language and culture; language being the source of Scottish traditional fiddling and piping in essence language feeds culture. This past year a policy was instituted by the Department of Transportation for the Province's seven eastern counties which created a provision for bilingual signs to be erected if a municipality passes a resolution supporting bilingual boundary signs.



## Piping and Drumming Lessons



Once again The Ontario School of Piping and Drumming is holding classes at St. Andrew's College, Aurora, Ont. June 225 -29 and July 2 -6, 2007. There are small classes personalized instruction for all levels including beginners.

For a brochure and more info contact 145 Cranbrooke Ave., Toronto M5M 1M6 or web site [www.kilby.sac.on.ca/ontpiping](http://www.kilby.sac.on.ca/ontpiping)

Eleven Piping Instructors from Scotland, Nova Scotia and Ontario, Drumming Instructor – Doug Stronach of Arthur, Ont will be teaching classes.

Perhaps some CJA members are interested for themselves or even their grandchildren.



Best wishes for a happy summer whether you're relaxing at a cottage or enjoying traveling, entertaining families or time alone. I know you'll enjoy whatever Highland Games you attend and be sure to make yourself known, by what you wear or what you say, as a proud member of Clan Johnston/e in America

*Carol Koeslag*



## News From Scotland

### Results of the Holyrood Election on May 3rd.

*by Stephen Johnston*

The Scottish National Party won but they don't have a majority in the Scottish Parliament. There are 129 seats, and the SNP won 47, the Labour Party (the incumbent ruling party) won 46, so Alex Salmond and the SNP will have to try to build a coalition among a majority of the winners of the other 36 seats to govern effectively.

### Isle of Skye Is No More.

The name has been changed to Eilean a' Cheo, pronounced "ellan-uh-ch-yaw". It is Gaelic for Island of Mist. (Information from [www.Scotsman.com](http://www.Scotsman.com))



**Dreams do come true, if we only wish hard enough. You can have anything in life if you will sacrifice everything else for it.**

— *Sir James M. Barrie (1860-1937) Scottish writer*



## Editor's Notes

*by Jackie Johnston*

You may notice that this issue is only sixteen pages instead of the normal twenty. The Spring and Summer issues usually don't have as much coming in from games held through the winter. I would welcome reports of games held during that time along with photos or other types of articles. I expect to receive lots of reports and photos of the summer and Fall games and I will do my best to get in as many as possible. The only photos I had for this issue are the ones from Minnesota so I hope you don't get tired of some of the same faces popping up year after year. If you do, grab your camera and head off to some Scottish event like Tartan Day or a dinner or games, and take some pictures of Johnstons in attendance and send them in. I hate getting my picture taken but we have to have photos for the summer issue too. I hope everyone has a lot of fun at the games this summer. I can't wait to see your pictures!

# News From Minnesota

by Jackie Johnston



*Top photo; Dennis, Dee, Jackie and Dennis Johnston Jr. of Maple Plain, MN.*

*Second photo; Serinity, Jennifer and Joshua Johnston of Annandale, MN, grandchildren of Jackie and Denny.*



## Montgomery Celtic Fling

The day was bright and sunny for the first Montgomery Celtic Fling. Montgomery is a small town south of the Twin Cities in Minnesota and consists of people of German, Czechoslovakian and Bohemian descent. They have an Irish mayor. One of their businessmen, Lyaman MacPherson approached the city council about having a Celtic event in town and they thought it was a great idea. It was a pleasant day and the highlight was seeing the mayor of the town get dressed in a great kilt and out with many of the young people learning to do a highland fling. We also had a chance to educate the local press about Scots and their traditions. The mayor and all the participants thought it was a great way to share knowledge of different ethnicities. We hope it will become an annual event.

## Johnston's at the Grand Opening of the New Scottish American Center

The Scottish-American Center held its Grand Opening on April 6, Tartan Day in New Brighton, MN.

The SAC is the only one of its kind in the upper midwest. It consists of a gallery that is available for viewing as long as the building is open. The resource center and office is open weekday evenings from 6-8:00. Other hours are available through appointment by calling 651-636-1558. The Scottish American Center has the largest collection of books on Scots in Minnesota and houses historical materials as well.

It has long been a dream of many Scots in the state to have a center, but it took one man to decide to just do it. Scott McKechnie is the Executive Director and until funds can be raised, he pays the rent and creates the displays. He takes two days off from his practice as a veterinarian to do this. The Scottish organizations in the state have stepped up to help out where they can. Many clans have brought in their brochures, newsletters and any history they have for the center. It is a wonderful opportunity to reach out to Scots in the area.

The grand opening was well attended and of course, Johnstons were there to hear the music, see the displays and talk to other Scots who gathered.

Dennis and Jackie Johnston are volunteer staff members on the first tuesday of the month from 6-8:00 p.m. If you are in the area, stop in and visit.

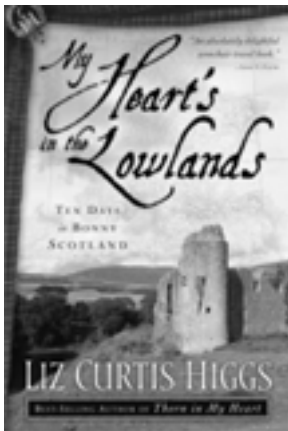
You can check out the center at [www.scottishamericancenter.org](http://www.scottishamericancenter.org) or visit it at 151 Silver Lake Road NW, Suite 13, New Brighton, MN 55112.



*Jackie & Denny Johnston, Ron & Alma Kincaid in Montgomery, MN. Alma is in the far right hand corner.*

## Reader's Corner

by Jackie Johnston



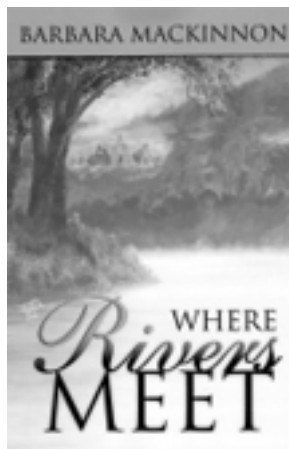
### **My Heart's in the Lowlands**

by Liz Curtis Higgs is recommended reading according to Debra Johnston of Iowa. She says "It's an armchair travel guide to the Scottish Lowlands and it's mesmerizing!! I highly recommend this travel book to our members. It's a must read!!"

The book is published and available through Waterbook Press. [www.waterbookpress.com](http://www.waterbookpress.com)

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*Editor's note: Barbara MacKinnon, Audrey McClellan and Bill Watkins are actively involved in the Scottish community in Minnesota.*



**They say that special things happen in places *where rivers meet*...**

Professor Andrew MacLean has left the small town of Dunkeld, Scotland, escaping to his native Skye, trying to shed his grief and guilt after his wife and son are killed in an auto accident. But was it really an accident or an act of revenge? Drawn back to Dunkeld to pursue his suspicions, Andrew meets Mary Sinclair, an American widow struggling with losses of her own and trying to start a new life in Scotland. As their relationship grows, both are caught up in ominous events that threaten their future together. Someone close to Andrew holds a powerful grudge that is sweeping them toward danger.

#### **About the author**

**Barbara MacKinnon** lives in a Minneapolis suburb with her husband. Born and raised in New Jersey, she has a Master of Divinity Degree and has loved books and writing all her life. A trip to Scotland inspired this novel.

*(Reprinted from Beavers Pond Press web site.)*

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### **Scottish Island Novels, by Audrey McClellan.**

In June 2004, I recommended *Westering Home* by Audrey McClellan. Since then, she has published four more books. *The White Rose of Scotland* and *The Devil and the Dark Island* are sequels to *Westering Home*. This Minnesota author and retired librarian has received awards for her writing and is often found at Scottish games from Minnesota to Missouri. Check out her website at [www.scottishislandnovels.com](http://www.scottishislandnovels.com) as she lists the events and tells more about her new book, *Rosie's Ceilidh*. Her books are also available at Amazon.com and [www.bookhousefulfillment.com](http://www.bookhousefulfillment.com). *The Devil and the Dark Island* includes a line from the Spur and Phoenix review from 2004.



**Scotland is Not for the Squeamish**

Bill Watkins is a charming man of Irish and Welsh descent who has lead an interesting life. A good part of his younger adult years were spent in Scotland. He is a master story teller, musician, poet, author and entertainer.

Wild Bill can often be found in Celtic pubs around Minnesota. He loves to tell his tales of his facinating life. His humor is contagious and he knows how to liven up any gathering.

This book is no longer available through the publisher but can be found used at Amazon.com. The reviews were great! I just bought a copy after so many people told me it was a must read book. This is Bill Watkin's second book. His first book, *A Celtic Childhood* is also available on Amazon used.

Even though his books are now out of print, I am including them here because of the rave reviews I have heard. If they are anything like Bill in person, it should be a fun read.

# Genealogy Corner

by Barbara Hockman

I recently attended a genealogical conference where the speaker read off a series of record types to use as a check list when you thought you had exhausted all possible avenues of finding that one piece of information for which you strive. See if there are any on this list that you haven't checked out.

- \* Family histories – Try the website [www.worldcat.org](http://www.worldcat.org) for finding published histories and the libraries holding them. Request interlibrary loans.
- \* Land ownership maps
- \* City directories – these go back in some areas as early as 1780.
- \* Tax lists – List males 16-60. Owning a horse, regardless of your age, made you responsible for taxes.
- \* Biography & Genealogy Master Index – generally can be accessed free at many library computers.
- \* Virginia historical Index - [www.lva.lib.va.us/index.htm](http://www.lva.lib.va.us/index.htm) - covers a large portion of country from Ohio River east.
- \* American Genealogical & Biographic Index – found in large libraries and through subscription at [www.godfrey.org](http://www.godfrey.org). Lots of other resources here.
- \* Social Security Death Index – you can order copies of applications.
- \* Newspapers – *Union List of Newspapers* can be found in most libraries. It tells what newspapers are on microfilm and who has the film for inter-library exchange.
- \* Persi
- \* Lineage Societies
- \* Fraternal Societies
- \* Cemetery Records
- \* Military Records
- \* Employment Records
- \* Education Records
- \* Medical Records
- \* Passport Records
- \* Local historical societies
- \* Bible Records – postings relating to bibles containing Johns(t)on(e) [www.biblerecords.com/j.html](http://www.biblerecords.com/j.html)



A good on-line site on how to do Scottish genealogical research can be found at [www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/history/scottishroost](http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/history/scottishroost).

Scottish Emigration Database Online - searchable database containing the records of over 21,000 passengers who embarked at Glasgow and Greenock for non-European ports between 1 January and 30 April 1923, and at other Scottish ports between 1890 and 1960. [www.abdn.ac.uk/emigration/search.html](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/emigration/search.html)

Where your ancestors part of the gold rush? Browse through all the Johnstons at [www.yukongenealogy.com/content/database\\_search.htm](http://www.yukongenealogy.com/content/database_search.htm)

Happy hunting!

## Resources



## Genealogies



# *Clan Johnston/e in America*

## Merchandise & Price List

Effective December 1, 2006

**Please Note:** Prices listed first in shipping column are for one item.

Amount listed second is for each additional, "same" piece (e.a.p.) in one shipment

Item	Price	Shipping	Item	Price	Shipping
<b>TRAVEL RUGS</b>			<b>CLAN CREST NECKTIES</b>	\$21.00	\$ 3.50 each
(Throws) 56"x 72" – 100% Wool	\$69.00	\$10.00 each	Navy Poly w/repeated Crest		\$ 1.50 e.a.p.
Ribbed collar and cuffs – Annandale		\$ 4.00 e.a.p.	woven into Material – Annandale Only		
Johnston Modern Colors ONLY					
<b>TARTAN WOOL MATERIAL</b>	\$58.00	\$ 3.50 each	<b>TARTAN NECKTIES</b>	\$19.00	\$ 3.50 each
100% Worsted Wool, 56" wide	per yard	\$ 1.00 e.a.p.	100% Wool 4.8 oz or 10/11 oz		\$ 1.00 e.a.p.
New Wool 12/13 ox. Ideal for Kilts			a) Modern b) Old Colors		
SPECIFY a) Modern b) Old Colors					
<b>POLY / RAYON MATERIAL</b>			<b>LADIES SASHES</b>	\$38.00	\$ 3.00 each
60" Wide, Old Colors ONLY	\$12.50	\$ 3.50 each	Worsted, 100% Wool, 4.8 oz.		\$ 1.00 e.a.p.
Light weight, small pattern and washable		\$ 1.00 e.a.p.	Tie Weight, 10"x88" w/2" fringe		
			SPECIFY Modern or Old Colors		
<b>SILK TIES</b>	\$45.00	\$ 4.00 each	<b>6 PIECE TAMS</b>		
Regimental Stripe, Johnston colors		\$ 1.50 e.a.p.	Worsted Wool 4.8oz or 10/11oz	\$31.00	\$ 3.00 each
Goes with either Old Colors or			Matches Sashes above & Scarves below		\$ 1.00 e.a.p.
Modern Kilt. Classy with a suit too			SPECIFY Modern or Old Colors		
<b>HEAVY WEIGHT SCARVES</b>	\$19.00	\$ 3.50 each	<b>SCARVES</b>		
Lambs Wool Scarf 12"x 82"		\$ 1.50 e.a.p.	Worsted Wool 4.8oz Tie Weight	\$25.00	\$ 3.00 each
While they last Modern ONLY			SPECIFY: Modern or Old Colors		\$ 1.00 e.a.p.
<b>JEWELRY:</b>			NOTE: All Wool Material Items are made in the U.K.		
<b>CLAN CREST CAP BADGE</b>			<b>KEY FOBS</b>		
or Ladies Brooch 1 5/8" dia.	\$21.00	\$ 2.50 each	Small Crest Badge mounted on	\$21.00	\$ 2.50 each
Rhodium plated Annandale ONLY!		\$ 1.00 e.a.p.	Leather w/ring for keys		\$ .75 e.a.p.
<b>KILT PINS</b>			<b>PENDANATS</b>		
Small Crest Badge on	\$21.00	\$ 2.50 each	Small Crest Badge on 16" chain	\$21.00	\$ 2.50 each
Claymore Pins Rhodium plated		\$ 1.00 each	Rhodium plated / Annandale Only		\$ 1.00 e.a.p.
Annandale ONLY !					
<b>LAPEL PINS</b>			<i>For Caskieben Jewelry, contact the Johnstone at the</i>		
Small Crest Badge	\$19.00	\$ 2.50 each	<i>number or address on the Order Form. There are no more</i>		
For Men or Ladies, Rhodium plated		\$ 1.00 e.a.p.	<i>Caskieben Crest Badges. Other items extremely limited.</i>		
Annandale ONLY!					
<b>FOR MEMBERS ONLY!</b>					
<b>MEDALLION ON RIBBON</b>	\$40.00	\$ 2.50 each	<b>LADIES PENDANT</b>	\$30.00	\$ 3.00 each
Beautiful Gold Insignia exactly like that used in the center of the Service Medal. About 1/2" in dia. Life Members ONLY-					
Please provide Membership Number.					
<b>BOOKS:</b>			<b>HISTORY BOOKLET</b>	\$ 9.00	\$ 2.50 each
<b>THE "GENTLE" JOHNSTONS</b>	\$20.00	\$ 3.50 each	by Cascade Publishing		\$ 1.00 e.a.p.
By Russell Honey			Condensed from the The Great Historic		
A wealth of information and insight into all Johnstons			Families of Scotland		
And their history of migration from Scotland to Ireland					
and then to North America.					

Item	Price	Shipping	Item	Price	Shipping
<b>POLO/GOLF SHIRTS</b>	\$40.00	\$4.00 each	<b>SWEATSHIRTS</b>	\$38.00	\$4.50 each
Navy Blue or Hunter Green		\$1.25 e.a.p.	Hunter Green ONLY		\$2.e.a.p.
Striped ribbed collar and cuffs			Adult Sizes Med., Lg., & XLg. ONLY		
Adult Sizes Med., Lg. & XLg. ONLY					
<b>TARTAN &amp; CREST MUGS</b>	\$13.25	\$4.00 each	<b>MOUSE PADS</b>	\$14.25	\$3.50 each
Dishwasher & Microwave Safe China		\$2.00 e.a.p.	Tartan & Crest		\$1.50 e.a.p.
<b>Design is not Dishwasher Safe</b>			approx. 8" x 11"		
<b>LICENSE PLATE</b>	\$19.25	\$3.50 each	<b>TRIVIT (Hot Plate)</b>	\$15.50	\$3.00 each
Tartan & Crest / Styrene type plastic		\$1.50 e.a.p.	Tartan & Crest Ceramic Tile / Square		\$1.50 e.a.p.
<b>NOTE PADS</b>	\$ 5.00	\$2.00 each	<b>MUSICAL BAGPIPE MAGNET</b>	\$10.00	\$2.00 each
Give your notes & messages some color		\$1.00 e.a.p.	Bagpipe is in Johnston Tartan		\$1.00 e.a.p.
<b>JOHNSTON HISTORY</b>	\$10.50	\$3.50 each			
On Parchment 8 1/2" x 11"		\$1.50 e.a.p.			
Suitable for framing					

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# Youth Page

by Billye Tellingier

## SCOTISH PROVERBS

A writer, James Kelly (1721), once said, "There are currently in society upwards of 3,000 proverbs exclusively Scottish. The Scots are wonderfully given to this way of speaking."

Here are just a few of the Proverbs:

If ye hae little gear, ye hae less care.

The thing ye dinna ken doesna anger ye.

Better speak boldy out, than aye be grumplin'.

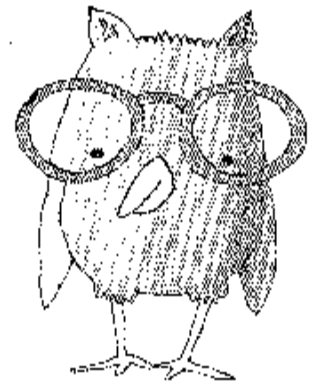
And finally,  
Poor workers are aye gude onlookers.

## \*\*\* Contest Winners \*\*\*

There were four winners in the "Where Is It?" contest from the last issue. Two new names, Shea Roberts from Grand Junction, Colorado, and Rory Fitchner of Burns, Wyoming. Also coming up with all the right answers were repeat winners, Makayla Johnston of Baxter, Iowa and Miranda Delay of Centennial, Colorado. Good work, Kids, and Your \$10.00 check should be on its' way to you soon!

Oh, you want to know the *answers*, do you? O.K.:

- a. Inverness is No. 3
- b. Glasgow is No. 5
- c. Gretna Green is No. 8
- d. Edinburgh is No. 1
- e. Skye is No. 6
- f. John O' Groats is No. 2
- g. Aberdeen is No. 7
- h. Stirling is No. 4



## Scots Smart History Highlights

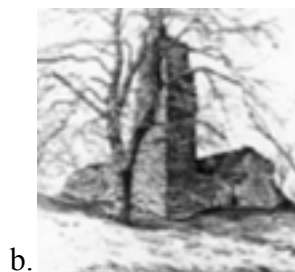
April 1949 - Chocolate and sweets were no longer rationed! A regulation which was in effect for 10 years, since the start of World War II in 1939. Can you just imagine how hard it would be for you to do without sweets for **10 LONG YEARS?** And, general food rationing ended on July 3, 1954!

March 1952 - The first TV programs were broadcast in Scotland. (Over here we have cable TV, but in Scotland, they have what they call a "license" and they pay for their cable that way. They can use small payment books, and can pay for it in the post office.) And if they have a VCR, or any recording device, they have to get a special "colour license" which costs more per month.)

1847 - Alexander Graham Bell was born in Edinburgh. But he was living in America When he invented the telephone!

## Tower Quiz

Which one is Lochwood Tower, home of ancient Johnstone chiefs?



a.



c.



Look for the answer in the pages of this issue of the Spur and Phoenix.

**Please Take Notice:**  
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Canadians: Please contact Carol Koeslag about dues information. See page 2 for contact information.

Send members address changes & renewals to: Margot Johnston, P.O. Box 71, Goffstown, NH 03045

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