

# Spring 2015 Spur and Phoenix

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Chief: The Right Honourable Earl of Annandale and Hartfell

## **President's Letter**

Dear CJA Members,

Happy New Year! Hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season, Burns' Nicht and good times with family and friends.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as President of the CJA Council of Officers in 2015. It is a pleasure to serve with a multi-talented team of volunteers who work to promote and sustain Clan Johnston/e in North America. We are working to significantly update our organization's official website (<a href="www.clanjohnstone.org">www.clanjohnstone.org</a>) this year. We will engage social media networks and encourage your suggestions for articles for the Spur & Phoenix. Given an expanded website, we will connect with more of our family and friends. Please feel free to contribute articles and photos for our newsletter, our Facebook page and through your family connections via Scottish festivals and games, music, dance and other events. We would like to proudly display any Johnston/e member gatherings, genealogy, special research and our shared history.

We are delighted to report that the next AGM will be held on September 12, 2015 in beautiful Estes Park, Colorado in conjunction with the Long's Peak Scottish/Irish Highland Festival. An enthusiastic local host committee is being chaired by Vic Gibson, who has been a member of CJA since 1994. Vic has actively helped host the clan tent at Long's Peak Scottish Festivals during the last twenty years. Brian Johnston Partridge, brother of Billye & Diane, aka the fabulous Colorado sisters, is assisting Vic and a talented task force to ensure the AGM location and festivities will be enjoyed by all. An AGM reservation form is included in this newsletter. Please join us at the AGM, march in the parade and celebrate CJA as an Honored Clan.

The Council of Officers is pleased to welcome two new members this year. Kathleen Sloan was appointed to fill my unexpired term as Vice President-West. Kathleen is a long-time tent sponsor in Tucson and also serves as a hospice nurse. Her husband, Allen, is a physician in Tucson. Vic Gibson will fill Kathleen's unexpired term as member at large.

Kathleen, Allen, Beverly and I will host a tent at the San Antonio Highland Games scheduled for April 11 & 12. Please e-mail me at jjjohnston1999@yahoo.com if you would like to attend.

Let me encourage you to share any ideas or suggestions with me as to how we can promote the value of CJA membership. Please encourage your family and friends to learn more about CJA. Of course, we are always looking for volunteers and any member of the Council of Officers would welcome your contact.

Best wishes for a healthy, happy and prosperous new year. I look forward to visiting with you at the games as we celebrate our Scottish heritage.

Clan Aye,

J.J. Johnston

Vol. 35 No. 1

*Membership dues in Clan Johnston/e in America are tax-deductible.* 



## **Council of Officers**

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Deadline for Summer issue will be April 15, 2015!

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## Johnston/e AGM Meeting at Estes Park Sept 11 - 13, 2015 We are pleased to announce that the Johnston/e Clan AGM will be held this year in Estes Park, CO. during the Longs Peak Scottish/Irish Highland Festival. The AGM Meeting and banquet will be held at the Roadway Inn located at 1701 North Lake Ave. Estes Park CO. 800-458-1182. We have blocked 15 rooms and negotiated special room rates at the Roadway Inn. You can choose to stay there or use other accommodations. Contact Estes Park Visitors Center at 800-443-7837, or <u>www.Estespark.com/</u> lodging. Room Rates at Roadway Inn are as follows: 'Premium Room (includes refrigerator & sink) either a King size bed or 2 queen size beds @ \$134.96 + tax per night \* Standard Room ( no frig, etc. ) either a King Size bed or 2 queen beds @\$130.45 + tax per night Our plan is to have our business meeting followed by a banquet on Saturday night (TBD) with a choice of dinner plates and a cash bar. The price of the meal will be in the \$30 per person range. Please fill out the registration form below and return as noted on the form along with a check as soon as possible so we can reserve the Banquet Room. CLAN JOHNSTON/E IN AMERICA – AGM "ESTES 2015" REGISTRATION FORM We are planning to attend the CJA AGM ESTES 2015 in Estes Park, Colorado, September 11,12,13. Please register us for the following events: CJA Estes General Registration Fee \_\_\_\_\_\_ persons @ \$10.00 each Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (covers misc. AGM expenses) Saturday Banquet and AGM \_\_\_\_\_ persons @ \$30.00 each Total \$ Please make check payable to Clan Johnston/e and mail with completed form to: Brian Partridge, 7284 Quartz Street, Arvada, Colorado 80007. Registrations must be made no later than August 1, 2015 to allow for convention facility planning. To help us in planning and arranging group accommodations, please indicate the following: We will be staying at the Roadway Inn at Estes Park. We will march with the CJA group in the Saturday Morning Parade. (Wear your TARTAN). Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_City \_\_\_\_\_\_State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_ Street:

## Allen Miles Johnstone (1925-2014)

by Shirley Johnstone

Allen was a proud Scot and was especially proud of his clan, Clan Johnstone. He was charter member six, having joined as soon as he learned from Bill Johnston of the existence of the organization. As you may know, Allen was a quiet man, always willing to let others take the lead in conversation. For several years he served as merchandise manager of the clan, sending trunks of goods to the various games. We were happy to attend many East Coast games from New Hampshire to Florida. We helped tent sponsors invite others to join with us in the clan.

Due to physical limitations in recent years, Allen and I were saddened to miss our old (and new) friends as we curtailed our attendance at the games. However, we were quite active with our local Scottish society and weekly Scottish dance sessions. Allen was president of the Scottish Society of Central Pennsylvania for two terms. These years of active participation in Scot-related organizations were some of the happiest of our life together. I would urge other clan members to avail themselves of similar opportunities as often as they can. Allen Miles Johnstone died October 5, 2014, aged eighty-nine years, five months and went to live in his heavenly home. (Photographed to the right are Shirley and Allen Johnstone)



## About Des Johnstone, D Urr\*

by Margot Johnston with information from Dorothy Rook, Commissioner At Large, Australia



Desmond Keith Johnstone was the Australian Chief Commissioner to Lord Annandale for many years. I wish I had known more about Des. We often emailed "stuff" back and forth, but I never got to know more than some of the things he did for his CJA.

Des was an avid skier, often spending some time in our winters in Colorado. He was also an avid diver, diving in many places all over the world. His eulogy was probably long as he had many accomplishments, too long to list. Dorothy Rook's husband read his eulogy at the funeral on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Des was also a very strong supporter of Scottish heritage and did a great deal to help expand Clan Johnston/e in Australia and New South Wales. The D Urr\* is an honor bestowed on him by the Celtic Council of Australia.

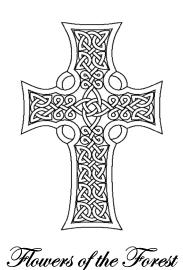
Des lost his long battle with cancer on Tuesday, November 4th, 2014. All of Clan

Johnston/e Australia will miss him.

Editor's Note: Duine Urramach (D Urr) means "noble" or "honoured person" in Scots Gaelic and is to be awarded to persons who have given distinguished service to one of the communities or on a particular occasion or to the Celtic Council itself. (Source: http://www.ccaq.org.au/honours.htm)

Please let someone on the Council know when we lose a member.

Although sad, passing on this information is the only way others will know of a friend they have seen only at a games or conversed with one way or another via email or snail mail.



Julia Johnston Buehler Hancock, WI

**Desmond K. Johnstone** Wauchope, NSW, Australia



## Ceid Mile Failte

Seth A. Johnson Hartsville, SC

## New Hampshire Highland Games & The Loon Mountain Standing Stone

By Margot Johnston

This year, the promise of decent weather for two of the three days brought more people on Friday than we remember seeing in a long time. Usually it is the school kids that come by the bus loads, but not this year. It wasn't too hot and it wasn't too cold. Just nice!

This year, Cathy Postier took over duties of tent host with a bit of help from her mother, Sarah. Arthur and Margot Johnston played back up this year.

There were some strangers in the tent next to us this year. Not too surprising as it seems each year we lose more old timers and they are replaced by new folks. Much to our surprise, this couple wound up being longtime friends of one of our southern Johnston/es, Beth Johnston. We have been friends with Beth for years too, through our visits south. I bet some of our other southern games attendees recognize these folks too.

Friday afternoon the Clans were invited to the dedication of the completed Stone Circle where the Scottish Standing Stone had been placed the year previously. This year the standing stone was surrounded by a circle of paving stones, many of which were engraved with the names of folks who had passed on or who wanted their names on one of those stones for posterity. There also were four granite benches on the outside edge of the circle, dedicated to the memory of a loved ones for whom the NH games were so much a part of their lives.

A bronze plaque, attached on the reverse side of the standing stone, listed the names of many of the clans that had been to the NH games from about the

beginning back in the late 1970's. Clan Johnston/e is on the plaque, and just about level with Arthur's left shoulder in the picture (page 6).

Saturday wasn't so great. On the way to the mountain, the temperature reading in the van at 7:30 AM was 27 F.

It was a bit windy and very cloudy. The temperature never got above 47 F. all day long and the sun didn't come out all day either. As usual, the tent was busy even though it was a slow start. It didn't seem to deter the attendees very much as it seemed quite busy but certainly not what was experienced in the past. There are always the folks that have been Johnston friends for years that come by along with all the CJA folks and interested folks coming around for the first time. Many regulars were not there this year. But there were several new faces.

Sales were moderate to rather slow. The most popular tent hosts were those who had little propane heaters in their tents. Fortunately, we were prepared and brought a large pump thermos of coffee for our tent.

Sunday, a really nice day, warmed up a lot. More guests arrived but it was still slow. About 2 PM, someone saw on the weather news that there was the possibility of very strong winds and heavy rain coming in about 4 PM. Of course, that is about the time that everyone normally starts packing up. So, by 3





Pictured:
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas MacDuffee (Left),
Margot & Arthur Johnston (Right)

PM, almost everyone had already packed up and was leaving. The clouds were very black and thick but seemed to hang over some hills to the south and west of us. We got about a dozen sprinkles, but that was it. So the early packing was for naught. However, on the bright side, we were spared the storm.

There were laughter and joking as well as sadness for those who have departed. All in all it was a good weekend with good friends, old and new, good food and time well spent greeting folks at the CJA tent.

### Scottish Standing Stone Circle

While the Scottish Standing Stone of Loon Mountain has become the most popular spot for photographs during the NH Highland Games and Festival, its true strength comes in commemorating the love of our highland heritage and traditions.

Through the donations of family, friends, and visitors near and far, the Highland Games have established the NHSCOT Fund to preserve and advance Scottish culture and arts through promotion, education and celebration.

The granite for the monument was donated by Swenson Granite Co. in Concord, NH. Many clans who have been longtime attendees bought space for their clan's name to go on the bronze plaque on the reverse side of the stone. Many more friends, additional clans, past and present board members of the NH games purchased paving stones and four families purchased granite benches, all forming a circle around the standing stone.

The New Hampshire Gathering of the Scottish Clans simply started as a Murray Clan gathering in 1974. In 1975 it developed into a multi-clan gathering, attracting attendees and athletes from all over the U.S., Canada and even World Champions from all over the world.



Arthur, Chief Commissioner (hence the two feathers) to Patrick, Lord Annandale, Johnston/e Chief in Scotland, and Margot Johnston

## Jamesie Johnston -- Albannach's "Baron of Bass"

By Bart Johnston©

In the 1990s I met Jamesie Johnston when he was the rising star of the first Scottish tribal drum band, Clann an Drumma. His explosive energy and enthusiasm for all things Scottish were evident to all who listened to this Glasgow band. They produced a primal beat unheard since the Middle Ages and fast developed a following on both sides of the Atlantic. After five years, Clann disbanded; Jamesie and three others left to form Albannach and their fame grew exponentially. Today, they are staples of Scottish games and Celtic festivals in the U.S. and Europe.

The first time we saw "The Mighty Nach," as their fans often call them, was at the New Hampshire Games in 2005. Jamesie dominated on his bass drum with three drummers and a piper following. They were loud, forceful and medieval. It was impossible to sit still; I had to move; we ALL had to move. No wonder the English thought we Scots were barbarians; any folk who tap into their DNA memory when they listen to Albannach are not too far removed from our dark-age ancestors who lurked in the shadows of the great forests of Scotland.

Born in 1973 in Glasgow, Jamesie recalls that his father was a piper and instilled in him a love of Scottish culture and sense of nationality. He left school to apprentice as an auto mechanic and got interested in historic re-enactments. That led to an occasional offer to act as an extra in historic movies, documentaries and TV programs. He worked in "Braveheart," "Rob Roy," "Highlander" and many others. While on the sets he and other actors took up instruments and played music to while away the time between scenes. It was natural that drumming should be a large part of reenacting since the Scots armies often took to the field with many bass drums to boost the spirits of the Scots and to strike fear into English hearts. Later it was the English who combined the drums with pipes in the highland regiments to effect the same result.



Jamesie is 2nd from left with Albannach.

Clann an Drumma was the band which arose from movie set jamming, drumming with a single piper. They were no doubt influenced by the iconic Scots bands of the 1970s and 80s, the Tannehill Weavers, Silly Wizard and Battlefield Band who re-invented Scots music.

In 2005, Jamesie and three others left Clann to found Albannach; they headed for the U.S., as so many Scottish bands have been doing for the past forty years. Due in large part to the charisma and energy of Johnston, Albannach surpassed Clann an Drumma in popularity, with fans by the thousands following them around. Jamesie attracts a large group of lassies who range in age from twelve to their forties and who line up to get a word with him before or after the concerts. He is a rock star of the Celtic circuit.

In June 2011, disaster struck in Kentucky at the Glasgow Highland Games. James Null, a local man who had known the band for some time, stabbed Jamesie twice in a drunken fury at being told to leave. The first wound, to his shoulder, pierced a lung. The second narrowly missed the femoral artery in his thigh. Jamesie spent weeks recovering but was back performing within months by September.

It was then that I got a chance to greet him at the games in Estes Park, Colorado. "Jamesie," I hailed him as he got out of a van parked behind the stage. He had the startled look of someone expecting trouble and immediately looked down at my hands and then to the nametag on my shirt. When he read that I was a CJA member and fellow clansman, his face broke out into a huge smile. I told him how happy I was to see that he was recovering nicely and he explained how the attack took place and that the man was crazy. I mentioned how much I had enjoyed the concert and he shook my hand vigorously with that radiant smile which was not shared by the young lady accompanying him. Evidently she did not enjoy sharing her Braveheart with anyone.

Six months after Nulls" attack, in a letter to the court, Jamesie explained how the stabbing had caused him to distrust crowds, thus making it more difficult to perform. I recognized this immediately when I first greeted him in Colorado. Null received a twelve-year sentence.

Last year Jamesie, a lifetime nationalist, worked hard for Scottish independence. He explained that he did it, in part,

for our ancestors who spent their lives trying to hang onto a place called Scotland. So if you attend a Scottish affair where The Mighty Nach is playing, go in and watch Jamesie and his band. His music will bring back the dark misty nights, lit by giant bonfires in the forests or longships riding the froth. You will hear the clash of the shieldwalls and the pipes at Culloden before the highland charge. And not least, you'll be taken back to the Aulde Sod by five Scots who love their country and their culture, and are driven to share it with us all.

## Stone Mountain Georgia, October 17-19, 2014

By Ed and Jane Alkins

It was here at Georgia's own Stone Mountain Park that we celebrated the 42nd Annual Stone Mountain Scottish Festival and Highland Games as well as the 38th anniversary of the founding of Clan Johnston/e in America. It was a perfect autumn weekend when folks want to get up and out and enjoy their surroundings. On Saturday the 18th, after a midweek series of severe rain storms, they came out in droves. It was reported that the games' attendance on Saturday, topped 100,000; the parking lots were full and the ticket booth ran out of tickets by 3:00 p.m. We had guests from near and far, a lassie from Dundee, Scotland and a mum from Wailaka, Hawaii.

The Scottish Festival and Highland Games are presented in the Park's "Special Events" section. The clans' tent presentations are located in the upper wooded area, next to the lake, while the festival and athletic activities are held on the lower grassy meadow area. The 97+ society and clan tents are situated along wooded pathways in the upper area.

Sunday, the 19th started off rather quietly; however activity soon mounted as a call went out for the Parade of the Tartans. As our clan members gathered at the rallying site, they were joined by our ex-Clan President Steve Johnstone's daughters, grandchildren and their family troupe of Scottish dancers. The individual clans were recognized as they entered the parade grounds on their way to form up in front of the reviewing stands. Introductions were made and all were welcomed. Announcements followed and among the first made was the winner of this year's prestigious "Ken MacKenzie Memorial Trophy for Outstanding Scottish Spirit."\* YES, it was Clan Johnston/e in America, this year's winner. Ed Johnston and Buz Johnson stepped forward to accept the trophy and commemorative clan tray on behalf of Clan Johnston/e in America.

As the very happy and excited CJA 2014 SMHG Team members triumphantly returned to the CJA tent site to show our on-duty tent hosts, Ed and Jane Alkins, they were joined by two of our younger generation athletic competitors, Billy Johnston who had come in 2nd in the caber toss and 3rd in the sheaf toss, while Colin Moore had come in 1st in the sheaf toss and 3rd in the weight toss.

As the sun was setting in the Western sky behind Stone Mountain and as we listened to the closing ceremonies completing another Stone Mountain Festival and Highland Games event, this year's CJA Team members turned to each other and all agreed that this year's SMHG was an important Clan Johnston/e in America success. This year's 2014 SMHG Team theme was "Membership" and the team was made up of:

Ed and Jane Alkins, tent hosts (GA.) Ed and Joyce Johnston (TN.) Buz and Cathy Johnson (SC.) Scotty and Sally Epler (FL.)

\*The Ken MacKenzie Memorial Trophy was established to honor Ken MacKenzie's life following his sudden death in 1992. He was active in the Stone Mountain Highland Games from their inception, and was past president and charter member of the St. Andrews Society of Atlanta. The permanent trophy is a silver cup to be displayed by the winning clan at the games and an engraved silver tray to remain with the winner. The trophy is sponsored by the St. Andrew's Society of Atlanta and presented by Janet MacKenzie, Ken's widow, and members of the MacKenzie family.

## **Genealogy Corner**

Barbara Hockman, Genealogist Johnstongenes.blogspot.com

Once again we face the beginning of a new year with hopes, wishes and plans for the upcoming year. Among all those resolutions you made I hope are ones concerning your family research. Do you have piles of papers just sitting around with no discernable attachment to any one in your family tree? If you were to go through those piles of paper, would you find that you have several copies of the same item? Do you have any idea where the items even came from so that you can actually give a correct citation if you refer to them as being proof?

Well, I have to say that I am guilty of all of these and probably more. So, my genealogical resolution for the year is to actually try to get a handle on some of this and to go through databases and get them up to a much higher genealogical standard. This means that I will start with myself and work back through all my lines, verifying the accuracy of what I have recorded. And as I go, I will develop a research plan to fill in the gaps, make sure I have citations for all the facts recorded, and to list any new questions that need to be resolved and where I might look for the answer. Whew, I think this is going to take more than a year to complete. But as everyone knows, you are never finished with your family genealogy!

And then there are those on-line trees that are out there for people to view. Have you looked at yours recently to verify its accuracy? I know that when I have been on one of the popular sights with those quaking hint leaves, I often look at people's trees only to find they have attached records that can't possibly be accurate for their ancestor. I mean, how many times can an ancestor appear on the 1880 census in multiple states? Take a good look at your trees and clean up any inaccuracies so that you do not continue to perpetuate bad data. And be sure to closely examine any item you attach to your own tree in the future. That quaking leaf is only to alert you to the possibility that the record might apply to your ancestor and that you should check it out.

Were you lucky enough to receive a Kindle or other reader for Christmas? Be sure to search for genealogical books among the free or greatly reduced prices to download. I have found many how-to books and even some genealogical fiction books. And a search on YouTube for genealogy brought back 75,000 hits. If you can't afford to attend conferences or just want to sharpen your research techniques, maybe you can find answers to your how-to questions within these areas.

New member Seth Johnson is sharing his line of descent with us. If you think you connect or want more information, please contact him at seth a johnson@yahoo.com



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James Johnston, Sr, b. abt. 1755, d. 8 Oct 1832, Sumter District, SC
+Frances Haley, md. abt 1785, SC

| James Johnston, Jr, b. 15 Mar 1788, Sumter District, SC, d. 16 May 1847, Clarendon Co., SC
+Mary Brown, md. 23 Dec 1813

| John James Johnson, b. 27 Dec 1823, Clarendon Co., SC, d. 16 Feb 1865, Elmira, Chemung, NY
+Mary Elizabeth Jane Kellum, md. 26 Dec 1854, Clarendon Co., SC

| Cornelious Asbury Brown Johnson, b. 30 Dec 1860, Wrights Bluff, Clarendon Co., SC, d. 7 Jul 1926, Sumter, SC
+Mary Elizabeth Ann Johnson, md. 23 Dec 1885, Clarendon, SC

| John Marion Johnson, b. 28 Nov 1887, Manning, SC, d. 20 Oct 1969, Sumter, SC
+Annie Mayes Smith, md. 23 Feb 1908, Lee Co., SC
| Everett Anthony Johnson, b. 1928, d. 2002, Lee Co., SC
+Christine Lila King, b. 1928, Lydia SC
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Happy hunting!

## Clan Johnston/e In America

## Merchandise & Price List - Effective February 2014

**Please Note:** Prices listed first in shipping column are for one item. Amount listed in second is for each identical, additional piece (e.a.p.) in same package. Due to cost increases, items and shipping fees may change

identical, additional piece	(e.a.p.) ir	same package.	Due to cost increases, items and shipping fees may change			
Item	Price	Shipping	Item Price Shipping			
TRAVEL RUGS	\$89.00	\$12.50 each	TARTAN MATERIAL ITEMS:			
(Throws) 56" x 72" 100% Wool		\$ 5.00 e.a.p.	TARTAN NECKTIES \$22.00 \$ 4.50 each			
Johnston Modern Colors ONLY			100% Worsted Wool, 4.8 oz. \$ 1.50 e.a.p.			
			SPECIFY COLOR a) Modern b) Old Colors			
TARTAN WOOL MATERIAL	\$58.00	\$ 4.00 each				
100% Worsted Wool, 56" wide	per yard	\$ 1.00 e.a.p.	<b>LADIES' SASHES</b> \$48.00 \$ 4.50 each			
New Wool 12/13 oz. Ideal for Kilts	\$		Worsted Wool, 4.8 oz. 10" x 88" \$ 1.50 e.a.p.			
SPECIFY a) Modern b) Old Colors	3		w/2" fringe SPECIFY COLOR a) Modern b) Old Colors			
POLY / RAYON MATERIAL	\$12.50	\$ 3.50 each	<b>6-PIECE TAM</b> \$38.00 \$ 4.50 each			
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JEWELRY:			By Russell Honey \$ 2.00 e.a.p.			
CLAN CREST CAP BADGE	\$24.00	\$ 3.50 each	A wealth of information and a good deal of insight into all Johnstons and their history of migration from Scotland to Ire-			
Rhodium plated—1 5/8" dia.		\$ 1.50 e.a.p	land and then to North America. No genealogical information,			
Annandale Belted Crest		•	mostly social history. Extremely interesting.			

This book is no longer being printed. CJA has the last NEW books from the last printing. When they are gone, they are really gone.



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Tartan Choice

					Items & Shipping		
Do not use price lists from older newsletters. Please list items with different Tartans separately. Only identical items to be listed as more than one (1).				TOTAL OF ITEMS \$			
				Delivery Confirmation \$1.00			
				TOTAL ENCLOSED \$			
Please be sure you have included a phone number in case there is a prob- lem with your order or item is temporarily out of stock.					US Funds please		
Name:							
Address:	Apt:		Please Note: Due to too many lost packages, all shipments will now have				
City:	State/Pro	State/Prov		Delivery Confirmation Tracking.			
Postal Code	tal Code:US or Canada			Checks or Money Orders Only— SORRY!			
Phone Numl	ber: ( )	ext.					

## Clan Johnston/e in America

PO Box 71 Goffstown, NH 03045

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Membership #:

**Expiration Date:** 

## Please Take Notice: CORRECTION Dues have increased effective Jan 1st, 2014

Note the lower left corner of the address area of this newsletter.

Under your name, lower left, are your membership number and your membership expiration date.

All yearly dues need to be renewed by October 1st each year.

Did you move? Please let us know your new address.

Note Correction of Member & Spouse (no Family) There was an unintentional error.

## Dues List Effective January 1, 2014

 Individual
 \$30.00

 Member/Spouse
 \$35.00

 Junior under 18 yrs.
 \$ 5.00

 Life over 60
 \$300.00

 Life under 60
 \$350.00

Dues for the spouse of a life member are \$10.00 per year.

## Please make all checks payable to Clan Johnston/e in America

Canadians: Please contact Paul Johnston about dues information. Contact information, pg 2.