



The Kennedy Gazette



Board of Governors

Chris Kennedy – President/ Chief
6415 Barberr Hill Drive, Gainesville, GA 30506
Hm: 770-844-9916, Cell: 678-313-7013
ckennedy@homedpro.com

Randy Peterson – Vice President/Deputy Chief
806 E. Boulder St., Colorado Springs, CO 80903
Cell: 303-652-7116
rprip87@yahoo.com

Glenn Kennedy – Treasurer
421 Ortega Road, Raleigh, NC 27609
Hm: 919-789-8015, Cell: 252-904-2527
glennkennedy421@yahoo.com

Sue Kennedy – Secretary
6415 Barberr Hill Drive, Gainesville, GA 30506
Hm: 770-844-9916, Cell: 770-533-1529
kenn6633@bellsouth.net

Nomon Kennedy – Chief First Class Retired
113 Cedar St, Sweetwater, TN 37874
Nomon Cell: 423-253-5655
nomonkennedy@charter.net

Mike Kennedy – Western Chieftain
5518 Deep Purple Way, San Jose CA 95123
Hm: 408-226-5813
rbrigadoon@att.net

Bill Kennedy – Midwestern Chief
241 Everhard Rd SW, North Canton OH 44709
Hm: 330-433-9323, Cell: 330-687-8604
wkennedyjr@yahoo.com

Nina Eppes – Northeastern Chieftain
31 Norma Drive, Nashua, NH 03062
Hm: 603-880-0603, Cell: 508-320-3469
nina.eppes@gmail.com

Leo F. Kennedy, III-Northeast Vice-Chieftain
43 Beverly Circle, Greenville, RI 02828
Hm: 401-949-1780
hdviking@aol.com

Mountain Chieftain - Vacant
Southeastern Chieftain - Vacant

Chris Kennedy – Scholarship Chair
6415 Barberr Hill Drive, Gainesville, GA 30506
Hm: 770-844-9916, Cell: 678-313-7013
ckennedy@homedpro.com

Lynn Grant – Membership
7116 Marlbrook Drive, Charlotte, NC 28212
Cell: 704-661-9583
mvlvn919@yahoo.com

Ann Blackmore Key – Newsetter Editor
P.O. Box 994, Misenheimer, NC 28109
Hm: 704-463-5745, Cell: 704-622-2453
heelanhound@carolina.rr.com

Carver Kennedy – Genealogy
365 Wood Creek Lane, Fayetteville, GA 30215
Hm: 770-716-9886
martykennedy@bellsouth.net

Bill Kennedy – Merchandising Chair
202 School Lane, Yorktown, VA 23692
Hm: 757-851-2689; Cell 757-508-2080
wmbillkennedy@aol.com

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LONG'S PEAK GAMES AND THE HORROR THAT CAME AFTER....by Ann Blackmore Key

A "busman's holiday" - you know a week when you don't have to work a Scottish game, so you plan to go to a Scottish Game just for fun! That's what Paul and I had planned for a trip to Colorado to return to the Long's Peak Scottish and Irish Festival, just northwest of Denver in the Rocky Mountain town of Estes Park. We had been once before and really enjoyed the trip with nearby hiking/photo opportunities. This year's trip included a visit with Randy Peterson and other Kennedys in Colorado, enjoyed the parade of clans through downtown Estes, enjoying the military tattoo, and, of course, the dog exhibits!



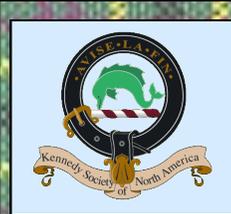
After all the customary hassles of flying and picking up our rental car, we passed thru northwestern Denver suburbs,

interesting ranchettes and into the Front Range towns of Longmont and Lyons on Route 36 (remember these names and routes, you'll hear them again.) We gained elevation quickly and the scenery turned from flat to mountainous passes with grand rock outcroppings. When we descended into Estes Park, surrounded on all sides by the magnificent Rocky Mountains, the view was more beautiful than we remembered from our 1999 trip.

Our motel was an old-timey log cabin style complex built in the 50's or 60's on a hill above the city's golf course (remember this). Country quilt queen bed accommodation with bath and tile and fixtures very reminiscent of the 1950's, but clean and lots of linens and toiletries. As fate would have it, as we were checking in another vendor from Charlotte area, the Scottish Cottage food vendor, was also checking in. We recognized him, but did not see each other again, because he was busy setting up for games and later serving the crowds, we hope.

The next morning we enjoyed a "Rocky Mountain huge" breakfast of "grits" and the BIGGEST pancakes we had ever seen...one pancake took up the whole large plate and was an inch thick. (We shared.) Afterward we headed to Rocky Mountain National Park for our first planned waterfall hike. We had been warned to plan to complete the hike before the daily thunderstorms brewed about mid afternoon.





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Rocky Mountain National Park, dedicated in 1915, could be called the “top of the world accessible to everybody.” Trail Ridge Road, which runs through the park is the highest major highway in North America tops out at 12,183 feet above sea level. Nearly one third of the park is above tree line. The park holds 72 peaks above 12,000 feet of elevation. Longs Peak, at 14,259 feet is the northern-most “fourteener” peak in the Rockies. It is this peak that the Estes Park Scottish/Irish Festival is named.

Grand Lake and Adams waterfall at the southwestern extremity of the park were our destination for the day. The trail head to the falls sits at 8390 feet. The East Trails’ naturalistic design, built by park service and CCC, uses native rock, wood and dirt to harmonize with nature. The falls drop 55 feet through a narrow rock gorge. At this high elevation, we had to take it slow and drink lots of water to avoid altitude sickness.



A tradition of the Longs Peak Scottish and Irish Festival is the parade that is held in downtown Estes on Saturday morning. We got up early for breakfast so that we could search out a viewing point on the street before the crowds arrived. Paul left me sitting on a log retaining wall at the US Bank ATM machine while he moved the car to visitor center, where we planned to catch a shuttle to the games. Little did I know that this would be my life’s closest encounter with wildlife!!



When visiting national parks, they ALWAYS warn you to keep a safe distance from the critters, especially those who are bigger than you. I was just sitting there, when all of a sudden I heard a noise behind me. Glanced around to see three elk cows standing a foot away. Then looked over my shoulder to the right, to observe, their constant buddy. An 800 pound, 7-point bull elk approaching me. This is rutting (mating) season and the bull elks get completely crazy protecting their cows! Not knowing what else to do — I FROZE. And he walked by me (only two inches from me) into the traffic where he meandered around, before rejoining his ladies. Elks are notorious for coming out of the hills and into Estes, but I never dreamed I would have this close encounter.



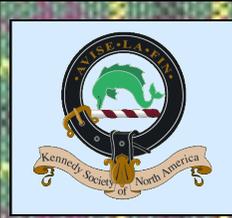
After he and the girls were a safe distance away I got these shots!! When my heart started beating again, that is!! A little while later, the parade started for all to enjoy.



Led by kilted color guard and the fife and drum corps of Williamsburg, VA and followed by other guest bands, who would later perform at Tattoo Estes, the exhibition of military marching bands, noted dignitaries, Scottish and Irish clans, and of course, the Celtic dogs!! Several gentle giants, Irish Wolfhounds, were in the parade. Paul jumped into the parade and marched with fellow Kennedy Society members for about two blocks, then re-joined me.

The town promoted their free shuttle as the most efficient way of going out to the fair grounds for the games. Not this day, our trip took an hour and a half... we could have walked the distance, as Randy's mother Elaine and others did, in 5 to 10 minutes! It wasn't the driver's fault, just too many cars in too small a space.... And a lack of roads in and out of Estes ... more about road access later! In addition to all the regular features of a Celtic festival music, food, athletes, bands, vendors etc, the Long's Peak event chose to erect huge red and white circus like tents to provide shade for the clan tents set up below. The result was interesting to say the least! The tents looked good from the outside, but they cast a red-orange and green hue over exhibits and participants alike.





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You'd know that we (especially me) could not get thru the weekend without a dog "fix." I spent every chance I could petting the canine crew. Dogs had to be officially registered to participate in the Dogs of British Isles exhibit and to hang out at the clan tents.

Randy Peterson, deputy chief of the Kennedy Society, hangs out with these two mischievous Leprechauns (this is also an Irish festival, you realize!)

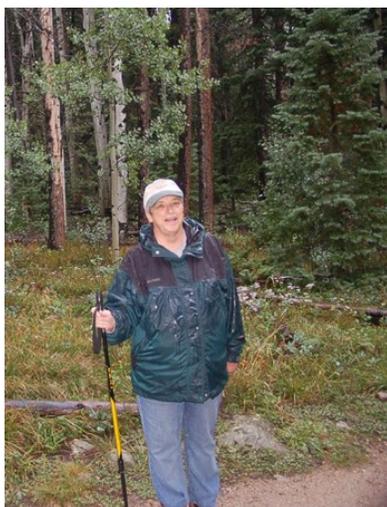
Randy and his special lady friend, Maria (who has a



unique Italian-Irish heritage) pose outside in the sunshine to avoid the orange glow...joined by others from the Kennedy tent for a group photo opportunity.

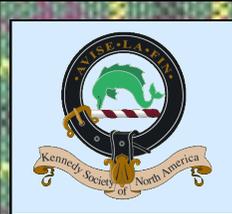
We scurried out of the games on Sunday afternoon as dark clouds gathered above the peaks, an giving an ominous warning of "things to come."

Monday morning we got up early to get in another waterfall hike, a beautiful sunny day. We utilized the park's shuttle service to travel to the popular Alberta Falls, hiked through aspen forest, along upward sloping hill with sunny outlooks and vantage points of Glacier Gorge.



Tuesday gave us our last opportunity for a hike, and without the sunshine present on our first two hikes. It was raining that day. The weather men said something about the front forecast to be around all week Little did anybody know!! (We even briefly thought, should we check out early and head home since Estes is an outdoor town and we won't be able to find much to do in the rain... but, no, we decided to stay.)

It didn't take long to discover that perhaps our Gortex raincoats had lost some of their oomph... we weren't soaked on the inside, but felt a wee bit damp...we've only had them since our fist trip to Scotland in 1996....so maybe it is time to retire them!!



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We should have left Estes Park early, as we watched TV news and weather, they told us the weather was going to worsen. Boulder was already flooded, students evacuated from dorms, roads flooded and crumbling. We decided that we would leave Wednesday morning. Morning came, and with it instructions by police and emergency personnel to stay put. The roads were not safe to travel. Lyons, the little town to the south on route 36 which we had traveled on way up was cut off. Outside our motel was a raging torrent and flooded golf course, with water approaching our door. No elk peacefully grazing there now! What has been the quaint business section of town was now under water, merchants helpless to protect their properties. And still the rains came, with each day the rain totals and destruction rising. In all, the floods were labeled a 1000-year flood, 18 inches of rain in two days, as much as Colorado normally gets in a year. At the time we left, the death toll had risen to 4 with thousands cut off. The National Guard was activated, but they, too, had to wait for the weather to break before they could get to stranded families. Now Highways 36, 7 and 34 (all the eastern and southern routes into Estes) are gone! The volume of water flowing through the Big Thompson Canyon cut through the infrastructure of the highway and destroyed miles of mountain roads, and stranded more families in the valley. For rescue, the rains had to stop... but still it kept raining. Areas of devastation kept growing....south to New Mexico and north to Wyoming, and eastward toward the plains. We slept (or tried to) all Thursday night with our bags packed and clothes on, ready to evacuate if ordered. NO land line long distance phone, NO cell phone, No internet. The only news we had was TV and we could not contact friends or love ones. Businesses that were still open could not run charge cards. Luckily there was still the Safeway gas station and grocery store open. We stocked up on snacks and



filled tank of our car and after checking out on the "honor" system with our motel, headed out on the ONLY route left, Trail Ridge Road, 50 miles over the top, to the west side of the park. The park was closed, only those exiting were given a free No facilities but pit toilets were open. Rangers stood sentry in their vehicles. After capturing a picture of a moose, we exited the park and headed north toward Wyoming. Into Laramie about mid-afternoon, we attempted to get a motel room in Cheyenne. No room at the inn ... all evacuees from Colorado had already taken the rooms. So back to Laramie for the night. "NO ROADS OPEN INTO COLORADO" so we continued on into Nebraska before turning back to the south to the Denver airportin all a 500 mile detour to get to the airport. As we turned in the rental car, we heard that the road we had just traveled was now also flooded. Four days after we were supposed to arrive home, we made it back to Misenheimer.



Yes, we had great hospitality at the Kennedy tent, but Mother Nature was not nearly as hospitable. This is one Scottish game attendance that we will NEVER forget.





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Lord Charles Sends His Greetings

At last we have had a long hot summer in Bonnie Scotland which has made a pleasant change from our usual short wet weather.

The highlight of the summer was on September 9 when I was invited to the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs to attend the Flodden service at St. Giles Cathedral to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Battle of Flodden which occurred in 1513 in the remote areas of Northumberland near the Scottish border, between the forces of Scotland's king James IV and England's Henry VIII. During the battle, which lasted only about 3 hours, around 15,000 were killed including King James IV and the 1st Earl of Cassillis.

I attended the service with my sister, Lady Elizabeth, and Mae and Dennis Reid. The Flowers of the Forest was sung by Isla St. Clair. It was a very moving service enjoyed by all. Afterward the standing chiefs had a group photo.



Then on October 26, an even more enjoyable evening, when I hosted a dinner for all my special "ANGELS." Included among the 18 guests were a professor, a doctor, 14 nurses, physiotherapists, and podiatrists who have spent most of the year putting me back together. Not an easy task, but it is nearly over. So, fingers crossed, I will be walking again by January and running by May. Thank you all for your kind wishes.

There are still places open on our 2014 tour so please sign up soon. It will be the holiday of your life. Don't be left out. For those who have shown interest, but have not yet signed up, please make up your minds. Final bookings will have to be made early next year.

Have a great Christmas and a fantastic New Year.

Your Chief, Lord Charles

THE KENNEDY SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA HAS CHOSEN A RECOMMENDED KILT MAKER!

Meet Christine Lawler from Portsmouth Virginia: I have been sewing since I was small. I learned sewing in the 4-H club. I have been making kilts for 15 years. I have made over 800 kilts. I have made kilts for 5 pipe bands. St Andrews Pipes & Drums and St Benedictine Pipes & Drums wear kilts only made by Christine. I also work as an independent contractor with shops, groups and individuals.

Your chosen tartan is ordered from Scotland. Plan 4 - 10 weeks to receive a kilt. It takes 2-6 weeks for tartan to be received in USA. I usually get it in 3 weeks and it takes 2 days to make a kilt. But I have to do all kilts in the order the tartan is received. There may be some kilts before you. For a 25% fee you can jump the line. I charge \$375 for an 8 yards traditional hand sewn kilt. I make women's kilts, kilted skirts, hostess skirts, and children's kilts. Price depends on yardage. Thank you for selecting me. I will order Kennedy tartan from only Lochcarron Mills.

I can be contacted at va.kilter@verizon.net. Please put "kilt" in the subject line. All questions are welcome. My phone number is: 757 484 7682. Please talk to the machine and I will call back. My address is: 3931 Long Point Blvd, Portsmouth, VA. I will ship mail priority insured.

Regards, **Christine Lawler**



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Important Words from our Chief

Well, another year has come and gone. The Kennedy Society has had another exciting year of new programs, new games, new members, and more and varied participation.

We have: added the “cube” for easier member registration and merchandizing; the “quiz” rolling along – don’t stop sending in your monthly answers; begun the evaluation of a new more local and hopefully responsive structure; received important merchandizing contributions and support from Bill, Terri, Mike and Paula.; people stepping up and taking responsibility for games, function

organization and other aspects of society growth.

Through the tireless efforts of Frank and Suzanne Canada the Titusville Fire Department Color/Honor Guard has come into existence and is Kennedy Kilted. All these and many more achievements are possible because of those that believe in and support the Kennedy Society of North America.

I cannot but begin to list all of the marvelous support, dedication, work and care that the KSNA has received this year. Sue and I have tried to cover as much ground as we can but we have missed much; so to all of you who have helped the society continue to grow – THANK YOU.

This coming year is one of excitement for us all. We will be inaugurating a new President/Chief who is full of new plans and ideas. If you have the opportunity, come to Greenville SC on Memorial Day weekend to be part of the celebration; there will be parades, fellowship, Lord Charles, Lady Alicia and short speeches. May this coming Holiday Season find you safe and healthy and bring you much joy. Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year. January we start anew!

Chris Kennedy

HERE IS THE SCOOP ON ANNUAL MEETING FOR 2014!

The Kennedy Society of North America will be honored clan and hold its Annual Meeting, which includes an election of a new Chief/President and Deputy Chief/Vice President, at the Greenville South Carolina Highland Games on May 23 and 24 of 2014. The games are held on the campus of Furman University. Annual Meeting will take place on the Saturday of the games.

Here are some basic facts about the Greenville Games: Games information and hotel information can be found at: gallabrae.com. Or simply google “Greenville South Carolina highland games”.

Friday night parade and reception: Friday night, May 23, will find the Kennedys marching down main street in downtown Greenville. We want to be the biggest group there, since we are honored clan! Joining us will be Lord Charles and hopefully Lady Alicia as she is now living in New York City. Also, making their debut will be the Kennedy honor guard from Titusville Florida, wearing their Kennedy kilts, as they escort Lord Charles and Lady Alicia in the parade.

After the parade we will attend the reception which is held at the host hotel. Presenting the colors at the reception will be the Kennedy color guard. What an impressive looking group!

Saturday (Day): The Kennedys will be honored at the games and Lord Charles will open the games. It will be a grand day for traditional Scottish Highland games--the skirl of pipes, the sway of the tartans, the grace of the dancers, the strength of the athletes--you'll enjoy culturally educational events, sanctioned competitions, and a wide range of family events.

Saturday (Night): Our dinner will be held this year at the home of David, Amy, and Megan Carrick. It will be a casual affair, in their back yard, as we enjoy a typical South Carolina barbecue of BBQ pork and chicken, slaw, baked beans, sweet potato casserole, and dessert. Beverages will include water, tea and soda. Keg beer and a selection of wines will be available at a small charge. Cost will be \$20.00 for adults and \$5.00 for kids. The highlight of the evening will be watching Lord Charles install a new North American Kennedy Chief and Vice Chief! Watch for a reservation form in an upcoming newsletter and email and **PLAN TO BE IN GREENVILLE ON MAY 23/24..**



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IF NOT NOW.....WHEN?



In the last newsletter we wrote to you about the upcoming Kennedy 2014 tour to Scotland and Northern Ireland. Since then the tour has met its minimum quota and more people are looking in to going by asking questions, putting down deposits, and perhaps, like myself, looking at new luggage because mine is shot! Chris and I have done a lot of traveling these past five years! So what is holding you back from joining us? Perhaps a quick re-cap of the tour's stops and activities would be helpful:

The ten day tour takes us on a journey through many of the most beautiful areas of Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The ten day tour is from June 20 to June 29. There is also a five day extended tour which runs until July 4.

We start in the dramatic city of Edinburgh, Scotland, explore sights in the Scottish Borders, and travel by ferry to Northern Ireland. Here, the modern city of Belfast, the medieval city of Derry, and the seaside hamlet of Portballintrae, await to greet us. Along the way we visit the stunning Antrim Coast, complete with suspension bridges,



castles, Bushmill's Distillery, and the world famous Giant's Causeway. Following our days in Northern Ireland, we return to Scotland to visit the ancestral lands of the Clan Kennedy, centered in Ayrshire, on the southwest coast of Scotland. A visit to Robert Burns country, will entail a close look at the sights important to the memory of Scotland's greatest poet. These locations in both Ayr and nearby Alloway, fully complement the Kennedy sights that will be explored in Ayrshire. Our final night in Ayr will be marked by an unforgettable Gala and dinner in the magnificent Culzean Castle, the principal seat of

the Kennedys since 1759. The next day we visit Bannockburn, and it's grand reopening at the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn, Robert the Bruce's pivotal victory for Scotland's freedom. Our final night will be in the town of Stirling, sight of William Wallace's first great victory against the English, 17 years earlier.



Our 5-day Extended Kennedy Tour (June 30-July 4, 2014), will begin in Stirling on the day that the guests of the 10 day tour transfer to the airport. After exploration of Stirling by day, the tour heads west to the colorful seaside town of Oban, visiting several lonely castle ruins in between. We visit Scotland's most famous body of water, Loch Ness, pause in the lonely hills of Glen Coe, and soak in our pilgrimage to the Isle of Iona, birthplace of Christianity in Scotland. Finally, we head back east, enjoying the historical and cosmopolitan sights of Glasgow, and the golfer's mecca of St. Andrews. A final night in the Old Town of Edinburgh closes out the trip in grand fashion.

Perhaps you have questions for the tour company: www.auldcountrytours.com. James Johnson is knowledgeable and available to answer your questions.

Perhaps you are concerned about the cost? Well, yes, we all are concerned about socking away the money for the tour. It is a precious amount, but I tell you this from the bottom of my heart – I believe it will be worth it! Chris and I are re-arranging a few things and being disciplined about saving our pennies. We've all heard it said, "nothing worth doing comes easily", and so it is with the tour.

So enough said for now.....come join us! If not now....when?

Chris and Sue Kennedy



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The Kennedy Society is pleased to announce the recent marriage of Katie Kennedy, daughter of Frank and Bonnie Kennedy of Davidson, Maryland.

Katie Kennedy married Dr Ted Richardson on October 20, 2013. The couple were married in a "Cinderella Wedding" ceremony at Disney World in Florida. Katie is an accountant with Ulticom and Ted is the Dean of computer science at South University, and is the author of several fiction and technical books. Ted and Katie Richardson will reside in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. The Kennedy Society wishes the happy couple a "happy ever after" in all their life adventures.

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2014

The Kennedy Society awards annual scholarships to students of Celtic arts such as dance, pipes, drums, harp, fiddle, and language arts.

****The deadline for scholarships is April 1, 2014.**

** To apply, fill out the scholarship application which can be found on the Kennedy Society website at: www.kennedysociety.org.

****The applicant must be recommended by a Kennedy Society member.**

** Send the application to the Scholarship Committee in care of: **Mr. Chris Kennedy, 6415 Barberry Hill Drive Gainesville, GA 30506.**

Email: kenn6633@bellsouth.net

Please feel free to contact me with any other questions.

YOUR ANCESTRAL JOURNEY IS A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFETIMES THAT CAME BEFORE YOU!

While convening the tent at Stone Mountain, Chris and I were visited by Lord Jamie Sempill, a member of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs. Some of you will remember Lord Sempill's name as he was the main driving force of the Gathering in 2009. Now he is a part of MacDonal and Rees, a team of experienced and knowledgeable individuals in the field of Scottish history and genealogy. Joining Lord Sempill, are Dr. Bruce Durie and David Broadfoot. Dr. Durie oversees a team of genealogists who interpret your family tree and DNA, then place them into a context which allows for them to plan your Ancestral Journey. Mr. Broadfoot has managed several Scottish castles and is known for his attention to detail and drive for perfection.

If you are interested in unlocking your ancestral journey and exploring those lifetimes that came before you please contact: Jamie Sempill at: sempill@macdonaldandrees.com or www.macdonaldandrees.com.



Virginia Games at the Great Meadow... Sunny skies and very warm temperatures greeted the clans and visitors during this Labor Day weekend. Joel and Bethany Cassel did a fantastic game as tent conveners, hosting members and canine guests, and signing up 6 new members: Niall Kennedy & brother Mark Frinks from Fredericksburg, Va; Barbara Olds from Stafford, Va; Elaine Wood from Woodbridge, Va; and Dara McCarathy from Broadlands, Va. Other members in attendance were Bob Davis from Williamsburg, VA; Paul and Ann Key from Misenheimer, NC (who were vendors in their Heelan' Hound tent); Claire Kennedy from Clinton, MD and Avril Williams and her shepherds from Eglon, WV. The Cassell children Lauren and Coleman enjoyed the games despite the absence of a haggis toss or kilted runs.



Photos by Bethany Cassell, text by Ann Blackmore Key



NEW HAMPSHIRE HIGHLAND GAMES ... My family and I hosted a Kennedy tent at the New Hampshire Highland Games on September 21 / 22, 2013. Although the weather was pretty nice on Saturday, the traffic at the Kennedy tent was light. Thus we had some time to amuse ourselves. The Innes clan tent was next to us, and they had some chain mail and other items for people to dress up in. The center photo shows me (left) with my niece, Ellie Davis, and her boyfriend, Dan McGuire—both of them in Innes-supplied accoutrements. (By the way, the seated fellow at the far right is a mannequin.) Other shots are of niece Ellie Davis, sister Geneva ni Seobhan and me, **Nina Epps**



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PLEASANTON, CALIFORNIA GAMES

This event, located in the Alameda Fairgrounds of Pleasanton, continues to be the largest one in the United States. Aside from many other local attractions, this is a great place to visit and get a real feel for what the games have to offer. There is always plenty to do with 30 pipe bands, 100 vendors, and 90 clans in attendance. We can truly say the past several years have been very successful with new visitors and new memberships. We are pleased to welcome Cindy Dinga, Tim Fitzpatrick, Kristen Kennedy, Jan Mellena, Jason Mander, John Mander, Peggy Collins, and Mr. & Mrs. Mike Malinao. The Malinao's gave a

generous donation to the Kennedy Scholarship fund. Great to see Russell Kennedy, David Holmes and Brian Kennedy again this year!

Chris and his wife Sue were with us hosting the tent. Thank you both for all your help with this. It was so nice to have you here again this year and afforded us the opportunity to step out and make a few deals on Kennedy clan items such as T-shirts and kilt pins. Chris was one of only three visiting Clan Chiefs to attend. This entitled him to golf cart rides to scheduled appearances, meet and greet the chiefs, and podium duties at the clan march. Though the weather was 92F, Mike set up misters on the tent walls to keep us cool and pretty much made the conditions tolerable. This year set a record for new members at Pleasanton. Please come and join us Labor Day weekend 2014.

Mike & Paula Kennedy



Postscript to Pleasanton Games:

By now, you have read about the Pleasanton California Games and the wonderful job Mike and Paula Kennedy did "manning" the tent. Did he mention getting 9 new members? Did Mike tell you about his misters to keep the tent and us cool? Did he comment on their use of the "square" credit card device and filling out the membership application – right from the tent. Then the application went straight to Lynn Grant for membership and the money went straight to Glenn for the treasury. Sometimes, electronics can be very useful!

Visiting us in the tent were many visitors, but I wanted to especially comment on a couple who are very special – David and Lilia Holmes from Oakland, California. David and Lilia were new members last year and their enthusiasm is over the top! After the games they treated us with a visit to their home, overlooking the San Francisco bay. We spent a delightful evening getting to know each other over dinner at Scott's, a well-known seafood restaurant. Thanks David and Lilia for adding so much to our Pleasanton, California visit!

Chris and Sue Kennedy



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The Kennedy Society of North America now has a Ceremonial Honor Guard Unit representing the Society and honoring the Scottish and Irish traditions of the fire service! Months of planning, training and support have brought the KSNA Unit from a simple idea to reality. In the fall of 2012, Frank Canada, KSNA member and Titusville Fire & Emergency Services Honor Guard Unit Commander, had an idea. He wanted to outfit the "TFES" Honor Guard Unit (Titusville, Florida) in kilts to present colors in January 2013 at the Central Florida Scottish Highland Games. The Unit members all supported the idea and it was decided to this event in black kilts. Training began in earnest; then Frank had the idea of asking a pipe band to march with them. He contacted Scott Ellis of Brevard Police & Fire Pipes & Drums, comprised of local fire and police department members. Their members readily agreed, beginning a new relationship that has the potential to grow, and soon the two groups began training together. By late December, with the assistance of Atlanta Kilt, the TFES Unit members were outfitted in rental black kilts and accessories.

The Unit drilled for hours to prepare for the games, and it certainly showed! Backed by Brevard Police & Fire Pipes & Drums, the Unit marched out onto the field that Saturday in January to loud cheers from the crowd and presented colors with precision, honor and respect. They were praised by Games officials and invited back for 2014. As Frank Canada and his wife, Suzanne, are tent conveners for these games, The Unit had their tent attached to the back of the KSNA tent for the weekend. Everyone quickly became acquainted and the Kennedys present were impressed by these young firefighters/paramedics. Their performance on the field was the talk of the tents to say the least. The Unit members really enjoyed themselves, and felt the history & tradition of Scotland and Ireland as it connects with the fire service. A couple of ideas were tossed around as to how the Unit might wear Kennedy tartan as epaulets, sashes or kilts and represent KSNA at some

events. Interestingly, several Unit members have Scottish or Irish ancestors, and Frank Canada and Unit member Jeff Harris' wife are Kennedys. With the interest level high, Frank kept the momentum going, infused with ideas and assistance from Chris & Sue Kennedy, and Neil & Janet Brussard. Titusville Fire Chief Michael Woodward soon gave his wholehearted support, and the plan to outfit the Unit members in Kennedy tartan was another step closer to reality. Another piece fell into place when Neil found a source for Kennedy weathered tartan kilts at an affordable price, and within a few months, the Unit members were well outfitted from Glengarrys to hose.

On December 6, 2013, the Unit will wear their Kennedy tartan for the first time, and, again supported by Brevard Police & Fire Pipes & Drums, they will present colors for the 100 year anniversary of the Titusville Fire Department. Their next event will be the Central Florida Scottish Highland Games, Winter Springs, Florida in January 2014.

Unit members are: Frank Canada, Unit Commander, Lt. Tiffany Callahan, Platoon Guide; Lt. Brook Smith, Color Sergeant; John Hustoles and Jason Lengenfeldt, Color Guards; Jeff Harris, Color Bearer; Jeremy House, Sergeant of the Guard; Bobby Crocker, Matt Johnson and Oliver Harper, Guard Members. Pictured is Lt. Brook Smith, Color Sergeant
by **Suzanne Canada**

STONE MOUNTAIN GAMES OCTOBER 19-20, 2013

The 41st Annual Stone Mountain Scottish Festival and Highland Games were held at the Stone Mountain Park, near Atlanta Georgia. Saturday, was typical Scottish weather with cooler temperatures and a drizzly day. Sunday, however, was a gorgeous day with warm temperatures and sun all-around. Convening the Kennedy tent were Glenn and Lynda Kennedy and Chris and Sue Kennedy. We had lots of visitors coming through the tent and Kennedy members included David, Amy and Megan Carrick, Karyl and Bobby Harwell, Ann, Emily and David Rhoads, Scott King, Bruce and Connie Nunley, Tim Kennedy, David and Brandi Fulford, Jason Woods and Tyler Kohn.

Highlights of the weekend were David Fulford and Jason Woods competing in the amateur and master athletics, and a very proud Tyler (9th grader and competitor in the women's athletics) carrying the Kennedy banner in the Parade of Tartans. All of us had a great time, and encourage you to come out and join us next year! **Sue Kennedy**



The Central Virginia Celtic Festival & Highland Games

were held in Richmond, Virginia October 19-20, 2013; The Kennedy Society of North America Tent was hosted by Bill and Terry Kennedy with the help of Bob and Claudette Davis. Also in attendance for KSNA were Paul and Ann Blackmore Key. Saturday turned out to be a typical Scottish day with rain, drizzle, light mist and cool weather, but it didn't hamper the spirits and good times at the Kennedy tent. A lot of visitors which led to good t-shirt sales and signing up a new member to the society. Welcome to Karen Ide of Richmond, VA.

Sunday's weather of blue skies and much warmer temperatures were welcomed by all. Terry represented KSNA at the Kirkin of the Tartans. Later that morning, Bill, Terry, Bob and Paul participated in the parade of the clans. The rest of the day was spent answering questions about the Kennedys and enjoying the heavy athletics which were being held right behind us. We were really impressed how organized the games were and with the number of clans, vendors, entertainment and athletics that were there on both days. Next year's festival promises to be bigger and better and of course KSNA will be represented.

Bill Kennedy



PROUD GRANDPAS SHOWING OFF THEIR GRANDSONS...

New generations of Kennedy are proudly shown by their doting Grandpas. To the left, Lord Charles lovingly holds grandson Angus, now age 1. And, above are Camden (age 4) and Benjamin (age 2) grandsons of Bill and Terry Kennedy of Yorktown, VA.

CASSILLIS HOUSE, THE KENNEDY CASTLE NEAR MAYBOLE HAS BEEN RESTORED TO ITS FORMER GLORY reprinted from the August 5, 2013 story by Glasgow Daily Record contributing reporter Amanda Keenan

Editor's Note: This story held particular interest to us when Nina forwarded the website addresses of both the news story and the BBC TV show, because in both 2000 and 2003 we had the opportunity for fantastic visits with Lady Mary at Cassillis. The warmth and charm she exhibited to two Kennedys from America are still fresh in our memories. Ann and Paul



When multi-millionaire internet tycoon Kate Armstrong bought a medieval Scottish castle, it wasn't just the fabric of the building she was fighting to preserve but its incredible history, too. Kate, who made her fortune after founding comparison website confused.com, discovered that Cassillis House, near Maybole, in Ayrshire was home to the Kennedy clan, known as the Kings of Carrick and one of the most influential families in Scottish history.



For six centuries, the imposing castle was owned by the Kennedys but had fallen into a state of neglect by the time Kate bought the estate for £3 million. It was the beginning of a painstaking four-year project to restore the crumbling building to its former glory – a journey that would reveal the castle's dark past and incredible secrets.

Kate, 50, said: "I knew it was going to be a huge project, but I had no idea the important role Cassillis House played in Scottish history. I discovered it had links to Mary, Queen of Scots and that the fourth Earl of Cassillis was involved in the murder of her husband, Lord Darnley. "The Earl

was a close friend of Mary's and she was a frequent visitor to the castle. She believed her husband died in a tragic accident but in fact her close friend and strongest ally plotted the explosion that killed him.



"It is also claimed that Johnnie Faa, King of the Gypsies, was tortured and hanged from a tree in our grounds, and the Countess of Cassillis, with whom he was said to be having an affair, was imprisoned in the Countess's Room at the top of the tower, so it has quite a past."

The castle's astonishing story is revealed as part of new BBC2 documentary Restoration Homes, hosted by Caroline Quentin. It follows Kate and 30 builders as they try to preserve its unique character, while transforming it into a modern family home. And it wasn't just an expensive and major building project. Controversy came when Kate took legal action to evict a sheep farmer who refused to quit his home of 13 years on the 295-acre estate. Australia-born Kate always dreamed of owning a Scottish castle but she admits that the challenge of restoring Cassillis was daunting.

She said: "The castle was built in the 14th century so you can imagine the condition it was in. It hadn't been touched for a long time and there were so many issues to tackle. "Years of problems with the roof led to rotting rooms and damage to ornate interiors. We were able salvage a few things but it was very much a case of starting from scratch.

Pictures: 2000 and 2003 visits with Lady Mary at Cassillis; 1700's painting of Cassillis; Kate Armstrong



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“Painting the exterior was another expensive task, we got through hundreds of litres of paint and the scaffolding alone cost £40,000. “The roof was also covered in holes and just when we fixed one thing another problem would appear. We focused on the exterior first and then the interior, which was a huge challenge because of the amount of rooms.

“We painted the ballroom, added a cinema, a gym, a new kitchen, five bathrooms and shower rooms. At one stage I thought it was never going to end. “We spent our budget and much more but the most expensive room was the kitchen, which flooded because it is in the basement. We redesigned it and fitted a beautiful bespoke kitchen, which matches the style of the castle.”

The restoration project also unearthed a secret room that had been bricked up. Kate explained: “The builders uncovered this when they were working to unblock one of the 15 chimneys. We believe the room

had originally been where the servants were housed and when they moved out, it was used as a coal bunker before being bricked off from the rest of the castle. “To discover it was like taking a trip back in time. We decided to keep it open and use it as part of our new home.”

Kate, who lives with her husband Malcolm, 48, and children Calum, 18, Isobel, 16, and Imogen, 15, admits her family and friends thought she was crazy to buy a castle.

She said: “My mum still lives in Australia and I called and said, ‘Mum, I think I’m going to buy a castle’. She replied, ‘Kate, are you insane?’. “Then when she heard about all the work we had to do she thought that I was having some sort of midlife crisis.

“But I’ve always wanted to own a castle, especially one that is so steeped in Scottish heritage. “The six generations of history attracted me and when our kids saw it, they loved it straight away. “We knew it would take a lot of hard work and a lot of money and at times I did wonder if it was the right thing to do but we got there in the end.

“It was the castle’s captivating past that led to Kate appearing on the BBC show “Restoration Home”. Each episode features a different property, following the journey as their owners strive to save them from ruin and transform them into wonderful 21st century homes. Kate said: “The production company heard I had bought the castle and was renovating it. They wanted to film the progress and it’s been great having all the hard work documented.

“Filming with producer Caroline Quentin was great fun. I think she thought we were nuts to buy a Scottish castle. “I remember showing her around and the floors were covered in water and the roof was falling in and she said, ‘you have some task on your hands here’. “A few months later, she came back and couldn’t believe what we’d achieved.

“I had a terrific team of builders. There was so much work to do that we would have fortnightly meetings in a little cabin in the garden just so they could bring me up to speed on the progress.”

Despite four years of toil and renovation costs running into millions of pounds Kate says she would do it all again.

She adds: “It has been a labour of love, but I’ve loved every minute of it. Now I have the grand Scottish castle I dreamed of when I was a little girl.”

Pictures: Kate Armstrong with BBC producer; Cassillis under scaffolding during painting.





The Kennedy Gazette
Ann Blackmore Key, Editor
P.O. Box 994
Misenheimer, NC 28109
www.kennedysociety.net



SPRING GAMES WHERE THERE BE A KENNEDY TENT

1/18/2014 & 1/19/2014 Central Florida
Highland Games - Winter Springs, FL.
the Orlando games

2/1/2014 Sarasota Highland Games & Heritage
Festival, Sarasota, FL.

3/1/2014 Southeast Florida Highland Games, Ft. Lauderdale, FL.
the Ft. Lauderdale games

4/5/2014 Dunedin Highland Games, Dunedin, FL.

4/12/2014 & 4/13 2014 Loch Norman Highland Games,
Huntersville, NC

4/26/2014 & 4/27/2014 Ormond Beach Celtic Festival, Ormond
Beach, FL.

5/17/2014 & 5/18/2014 Smoky Mountain Highland Games,
Maryville, TN

5/23/2014 - 5/25/2013 Greenville SC Highland Games
Annual Meeting!!!

5/31/2014 & 6/1/2014 Glasgow KY Highland Games

Upcoming Issues for 2014

**Deadline for Spring Pre-AGM issue is
March 15. Publication April 1. Need
pictures and stories of winter games by
then. Thank you. Ann**

**Email Address is: send all emails to
heelanhound@windstream.net**

**If you have editing capability, please send jpeg
photos sized NO LARGER than 700 pixels wide.
Photos have been coming in 55 inches wide
which are way too large and very time
consuming for me convert
to the correct size needed in
the publication.**

**Ann Blackmore Key
PO Box 994
Misenheimer, NC 28109**

**Our phones are:
Home:704-463-5745
Paul's cell 704-622-2453**



**Ann, Paul & Neilley
at their Heelan'
Hound sales tent**