

64TH ANNUAL GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN HIGHLAND GAMES JULY 11-14, 2019



The 64th Annual Grandfather Mountain Highland Games were held July 11-14, 2019 at MacRae Meadows on Grandfather Mountain near Linville, NC.

Grandfather Mountain has been an icon in North Carolina's landscape for generations, offering stunning scenery and the Mile High Swinging Bridge. The Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, too, are an icon among highland games in the Southeastern U.S. Many Scots, have been joining their clans, traveling to Grandfather year after year beginning in the 1950's. The Kennedy Society was founded at Grandfather Mountain in 1973.

We Kennedys took our place among our fellow clansmen at the Calling of the Clans on Thursday night. I must admit I got chills when I listened to Samantha give the Kennedy Cry "up the coast of Ballantrae, through the ancient kingdom of Carrick, beware, the wild and mighty Kennedys are here!" We continued our presence at the Games until the closing ceremony on Sunday afternoon. Four Kennedy couples convened our tents – Nick and Samantha Payton, David and Irene Phelps, Sean and Tammy Carrick, and Chris and Sue Kennedy. I must not forget to mention, we were brilliantly assisted by Rick and Kim Hageman in our tent duties.

Joining the Kennedy Society are new members Winona Golden of Davie Florida and Virginia Coleman of Elizabethton Tennessee. Welcome, to you both and we look forward to seeing you at other games along the way!

Kennedy Society members who joined us for all or part of the weekend included: Kevin and Jessica Kennedy, Rose Kennedy and her daughters, Eden and Evey, Karen Kennedy, David and Amy Carrick, Mary Ruth Starr, Sherry Short, Michael Germain, and Thomas Sherrill.

We must take a moment to share with you that one of our scholarship winners, Eden Kennedy, entered the



Group Shot



These tent conveners are ready to sign up new members!
Irene Phelps, Samantha Payton, and Sean Carrick

Highland Dance competition on Saturday and placed 4th in the Highland Fling and 3rd in the Sword Dance. On Sunday Eden distinguished herself in the Scottish Nationals Highland Dance competition and placed 3rd in the Flora, 1st in the Lilt, 3rd in the Tulloch (Reel) AND she was awarded the Overall Nationals Trophy Winner! Congratulations to Eden and a big well done!

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Finally I wanted tell you the weather report for the weekend was dreadful – it was supposed to rain all weekend. However, not a drop of rain fell the whole time! I think that is a first in Grandfather weather history! All of us had a great time, join us next year for the 65th Grandfather Games!

Tent Conveners:
The Paytons, the Phelps, the Carricks, and the Kennedys



We have time for a wee dram before we set up the tent: Samantha Payton, David Phelps, Chris Kennedy and Nick Payton



Eden Kennedy displaying her overall National Trophy Winner award



Tartan Parade - Rick Hageman and Sean Carrick carry the tartan Kennedy banner

COLORADO IRISH FESTIVAL CLEMMENT PARK, LITTLETON, CO

The 25th Anniversary of the Colorado Irish Festival held in Clement Park was a bit of a struggle this year. The park is undergoing major construction and due to early weather issues, is well behind schedule. So, what was to be the first festival in the newly remodeled park turned into a weekend of blowing dirt, construction barriers and scorching heat. Obviously, these issues affected the overall attendance and we were not surprised when the festival organizers announced disappointing numbers all around.

Despite these issues, the Kennedy Society of North America had a strong showing of family and friends that kept our tent as the social hub of the Cultural Village. With 3 stages, Irish music in all of its forms is the strongest draw for the festival and attendance peaked when the headliners performed and the temperatures dropped. As the Young Dubliners, Gaelic Storm, and Jig Jam from Ireland played in the background, we were able to keep a steady stream of people engaged and entertained as they drifted by.

We gave out countless business cards in our “Irish blessing and curse” game, and several interested Kennedys took more info on the Society. For those not acquainted with our game, we print Irish

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Greetings to all our members and families. And of course friends too. September is underway and it is hard to believe it is this late in the year. It also signifies the start of hurricane season which is worrisome to our East Coast members. Prayers and thoughts are with them. If you have family in these areas remember to check on them.

In July I traveled to Eagan, MN to help with our new tent conveners Allison and her brother Terry and the other family members. The weather was not cooperative. So they found out what can happen but they went thru it like veterans. It is a beautiful game site – if you can ever go do it!!



We are working on future AGM locations so I would like to give you a heads up on the one for 2020. It will be in Moab, UT, Nov 6-8, 2020. Ed Kennedy is working with Dan Lamont on accommodations and activities for those that want to make it a vacation trip. We will post information as it comes available. If you are interested in going please send me a note so we can make sure you get the information you will need. My email is mylyn919@yahoo.com. Hopefully this gives everyone time enough to plan to be at the AGM in 2020.

Please remember that if you or any family member needs remembrance or prayers that we do have a wonderful Chaplain. Tom Kennedy is from Nebraska. He attends different games and has family members that compete in the athletics. Be sure to meet him when possible.

Colleen will be tent convener for the Ligonier games coming up Sept 14-15. It will be a two day game this year. It will also be the site for the AGM in 2021. I will be going up for it. There are 2 games coming up in Virginia. Attend any game you can and support our tent conveners!! They help to keep us going.

May you all have a wonderful fall. Enjoy the cooler temperatures.

Hugs and love to all,
Mary Lynn Grant

COLORADO IRISH FESTIVAL (continued)

Blessings and an equal amount of Irish Curses on the back of business cards and mix them up in a pile on the table. I challenge passersby to test their luck by drawing a card and reading it out loud. It is always good fun, and more often than not, they keep the card. Interestingly enough, they are more apt to keep the curses than the blessings!

Overall, the 2019 Colorado Irish Festival was a success for the Kennedys in that people use us as a reference point for family, fun, information and lots of laughter. Sadly, there is some murmuring that this festival may have run its course and may not be back next year due to financial struggles and venue conflict. I guess time will tell, but should it happen again next year, the Kennedy Society of North America will be there!

Until then I remain,

Ed Kennedy
Rocky Mountain Chieftain
Kennedy Society of North America



A MESSAGE FROM LORD AILSA

Summer here in Ayrshire has been punctuated by periods of very high temperatures along with spells of intense rain. For some areas in the UK this August has been the wettest on record, however I was reminded by my wife Anne that harvest here on the Estate is usually a wet stop start affair and that as a farmer I am never happy with the weather. As an old neighbour of mine used to say “we always get some kind of weather at this time of year”.

We have clear felled many of the mature commercial woodlands on the Estate and are about to start replanting with Sitka Spruce, my late father always liked to mix the Sitka with Larch but we can do that no longer because of the disease Phytophthora Ramorum, which is killing the Larch trees in South West Scotland. There are great numbers of Roe Deer in our woods which need to be controlled in order for the newly planted trees to survive their browsing, so most early mornings and late evenings I have been out with the rifle stalking the bucks which are in season until the 20th October. In May I was lucky enough to shoot a buck with a very good set of antlers, Tommy our Game Keeper persuaded me to have them professionally measured and the result is that I have been awarded a Gold Medal. The head is now away at the taxidermist being mounted. One of my favourite rifles is an old Mannlicher-Schonauer 6.5x54. This was purchased in 1906 by my Great Grandfather, and incidentally is the same model and calibre of rifle used extensively by the great American author Ernest Hemmingway when he was big game hunting in Africa.

I had no duties to perform at the Royal Highland Show this year other than to attend the President's Lunch. Once again Anne were at the Maybole Gala where we crowned the Gala King and Queen. In August Kirkmichael Church was very lucky with their Fete, the forecast was awful, however the sun came out just in time and it was gorgeous on the Manse lawn, then about half an hour after everybody had left the heavens opened, further proof that our wonderful minister The Rev, Gerald Jones has a some sort of direct line to the Almighty!
Both Kitty and Archie have been up from London, Kitty for a break and to see some shows at the Edinburgh Festival. Archie was here in his capacity as a valuer for Sotheby's to do our periodic inspection and valuation of the contents of Culzean Castle along with the

artefacts and paintings here and with my sister Elizabeth along with those on loan to Prince Charles.

In June I rode my 1936 Brough Superior up to Ardrossan to meet members of the BS Club who had been touring Scotland on their bikes and were coming back to the mainland from the Isle of Arran. One of the group was riding a 97 year old Brough, which was running like a Swiss watch. They all followed me down the coast to Morriston where we had refreshments before they went on their way south as it was the end of the tour.

I had a visit from the Lotus Seven Club in July, they were keen to see my automotive collection and turned up in the most atrocious weather in their canvas hooded sports cars, many of them were very wet indeed. My 1952 Bentley needed some work done on its engine so I am running it in just now before I take it down to Blenheim Palace where it has been chosen for the Patina Class at the Concours d' Elegance on the 8th of September. 2019 is the Bentley Motors centenary and Bentley are hoping to have 1001 Bentleys at Blenheim.

Next to the steading here at Morriston I have enclosed a small wooded area for two delightful Tamworth pigs. Tamworths are an old English breed, hairy and ginger in colour. They are happy outdoors and provide some of the tastiest pork when fattened. They enjoy all the windfall apples and by-products from the vegetable garden.

On the farm we have had a very successful harvest of both the hybrid rye for the anaerobic digester in Girvan and the cereals for cattle fodder, we still have to cut the beans and maize, and over the winter we will slowly lift the fodder beet as orders come in for it, some of course will be enjoyed by the piggys.

Anne joins me in sending best wishes to you all,

Ailsa





MEMBERSHIP NEWS

It has been four years since I started volunteering as the Membership Chair for the Kennedy Society. I could hardly believe that four years have passed! (I looked in my records for confirmation.) Soon after I started in this position, Chief Leo Kennedy sent me a note asking "Are you having fun yet?". I kept that note as a reminder. The time has just flown by, so I must be having fun!

Part of the job of Membership is contacting each member to renew their own memberships. That isn't so much fun but it is vital to the organization. Thank you all for your renewals. I appreciate each and every one of the members who help support the scholarships, participate in the games, convene a tent, share stories in the Kennedy Gazette, and simply enjoy the social interactions with other Kennedys, Canadays, Carricks, Cassells, etc.

Another part of the job is connecting members with the Members-Only area of our web page. I want you to know that the username and password have recently changed to the following:

Username: Ayrshire

Password: Maybole**19

These are case sensitive. Contact me if you have trouble with it and I will help.

One of the many benefits of being a Kennedy Society member is sharing the hospitality of a Kennedy tent. I occasionally read through back issues of this newsletter (in the members-only section of the website) and always there are happy photos of new members in front of the Kennedy tent. And fall is the perfect season to attend a Scottish event! If you go, be sure to look for a Kennedy Society tent in the clan village. Visit the tent for long enough and you will make new memories and learn a lot about our common history. So, stay a while, and chat. Maybe I'll see you there.

Colleen Kennedy Caldwell

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MINNESOTA SCOTTISH FAIR OUR FIRST YEAR

The Minnesota Scottish Fair! This was my family's first time at setting up a Kennedy Society of North America booth at the fair. We have been attending the fair together for the last few years, and since Robbie and I have been involved with exploring our heritage through Clan Tartan, a Scottish history re-enactment group, we as a family decided it would be fun to do together. So, my sister Allison and I joined the Kennedy Society, and she contacted them to ask about how we would go about setting up a booth.

Well, all of a sudden, we found we were playing host to Mary Lynn Grant, the Chief of the Kennedy Society and a couple of members from Iowa Marc and Joanne! Of course, our first time setting up a booth could not be smooth. We were plagued by horrible heat while setting up on Friday evening, but Lynn, the Chief of the Kennedy Society of North America gave us lots of suggestions about the best ways of setting up a booth. Marc and Joanne also had plenty of experience in setting up a booth for hot weather as well.

While I know it's great to hear the pipe bands playing during the competition, one of my favorite memories of the fair was hearing that first piper off in the field by himself playing. After we got the booth ready for the next morning we talked over our plans, lowered the canopy, and went home anticipating the fun of the next day. As we were leaving we looking at the sky tried to decide whether the clouds looked like a dragon or a bunny.

Early Saturday morning we were attacked by storm winds and torrential rains. Fortunately, my brother Robbie, and Mary Lynn were at our booth when the storm came through Saturday morning, and were able to hold it down and keep it from blowing away. Several other canopies were destroyed and blown away. The weather reports were not looking good and soon the Fair Director came by and told us that many of the Clans were not even planning on setting up. She gave us the option of staying or packing up and going.

After all of us arrived and we watched all the other Clans pack it in, we finally decided to pull our booth as well. Disappointed, we agreed to dry off and then go to lunch together. When we finished a wonderful long lunch filled with great conversation, we noticed the weather had cleared up. So, we went back to enjoy the rest of the fair, wandering around enjoying the games, pipe bands, sheep herding and all the rest of the culture that makes up a great Scottish Fair.

Submitted by: Terry Kennedy-Lares





A WORD FROM NOMON!

Dearest Kennedy Clan,

It's been quite a while since I have made news in the Gazette, but I feel that at this point I must. Our Society has come a long ways since 2005. Those of you that weren't around then let me explain.

The KSNA literally was in self-destruct. There were many reasons why but that isn't important as to what has taken place since. We met at GrandFather Mountain HG with the idea of reorganizing. There were a few that would volunteer reluctantly to fill positions. It was a time-consuming year, but things started moving.

The controllers were the elected officers and all the previously appointed Chieftains. We held Board meetings and discussions via email, later phone conferences and one Person to Person meeting in Nashville.

New Bylaws were drafted and new ideas as well as new positions were created, but I don't want you think this is about the beginning I want the General KSNA Membership to understand the following.

The KSNA is a VOLUNTEER RUN SOCIETY. We all owe a hardy thank you to each and every Volunteer we meet. The Officers, the Chieftains, the Tent Conveners to name a short few. These folks don't only donate their time but money. Have you ever stopped by a tent and had a wee dram or two, ate some snacks at the tent? Those were bought by those hosting the tent.

Your KSNA has come a long way. It has improved every year since its redesign. My sincere and heartfelt thank you to each one of you. You have more ideas and better things to come I'm sure. So to all you General Members offer help to a tent you visit. Call the New President and offer your assistance. It is a lot of fun I assure you.

To all the New Officers, Congratulations on your positions. I'm very proud KSNA has our First Female President. Keep the Clan Moto first and foremost in all that you do, Avise la fin / Consider the end. May the KSNA increase with more Volunteers as well as new membership.

CFCR Nomon Kennedy
President 2005-2010

COLORADO SCOTTISH FESTIVAL

AUGUST 4-5, 2019

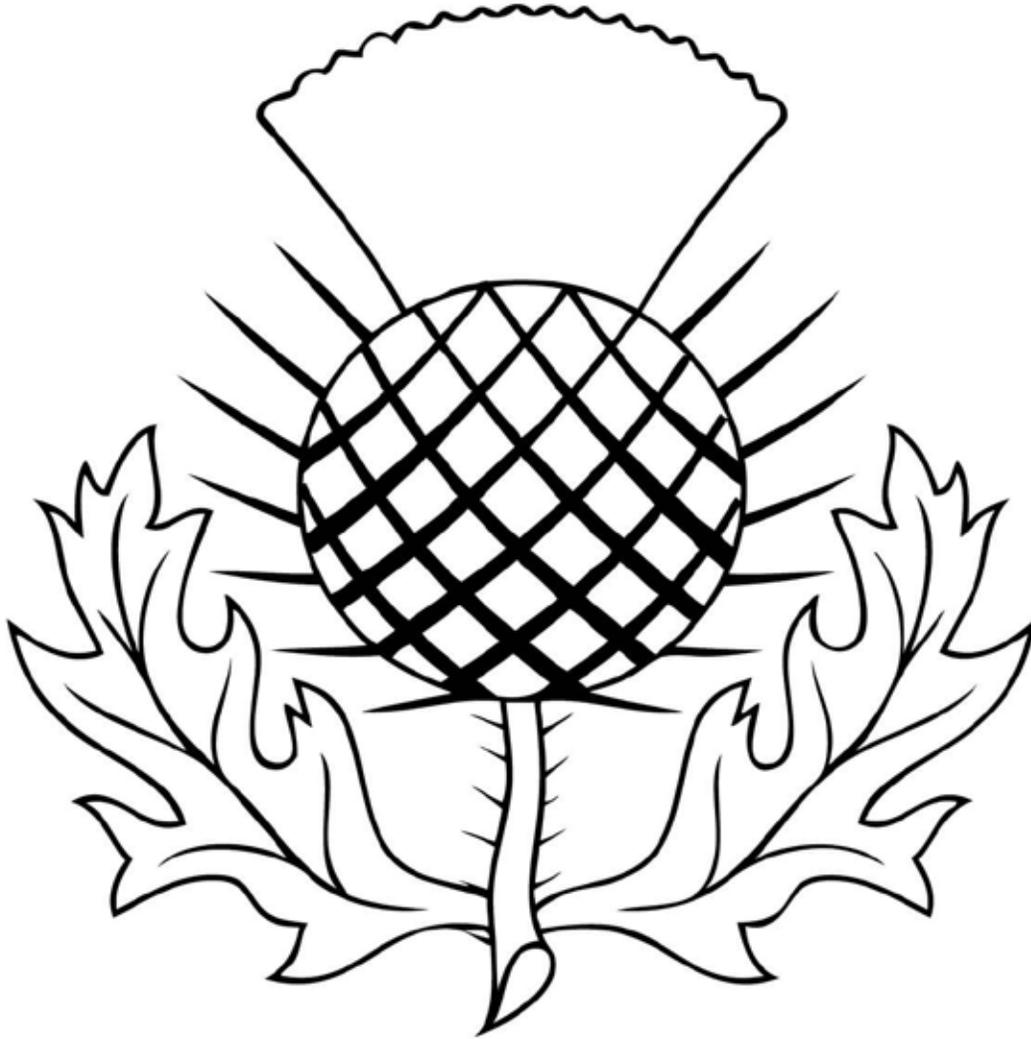
The Colorado Scottish Festival held August 4th and 5th in the city of Edgewater had a record number of Clans, Families, and Societies in attendance. It was amazing to see so many tartans and friends outside of the traditionally big games. Citizens Park, where the games are held, is a small venue nestled in a residential neighborhood. As you can imagine, a small park with explosive growth created some challenges in layout, flow, and parking. Unfortunately, there was some miscommunication concerning the footprint of the re-enactment troop tents tie down ropes, so that when we showed up Saturday morning, we were no longer a corner tent, but the last tent in a cul de sac. What was once a prime location with 2 sides open to the public was now an awkward dead end that became a gauntlet of ropes, stakes, and the backstage workings of the troop. The organizers were very apologetic and offered to help us relocate, but by then we were more committed to a quite weekend than to the chaos of relocating as the festival opened. On the bright side, we were one of the only locations with shade, so we were able to offer relief to many guests as the sun and the temperature rose.

We had several Kennedy's hunt us down, and our tent was always full of laughter and love. While the heat and logistics may have affected the overall attendance, it did not dampen our spirits. After all, if we are not in it for fun, why are we?

Submitted by: Ed Kennedy



COLORING PAGE
SCOTTISH THISTLE



FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

KIP KENNEDY

It has come to our attention that Kip Kennedy of Kingsport, TN passed away November 11, 2018 at the age of 76. He had been a KSNA member since 1998, and was active in the Kingsport community as both a businessman and a citizen. He loved to dance and travel, having been to all 50 states. He was also a member of the Tennessee National Guard. His name has been placed on the Flowers of the Forest list at the Ligonier games.





REPORT FROM AUDREY TRAWICK SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

In the past when a Kennedy Society scholarship was awarded, the candidate would apply, be selected, and that was that. We never followed up to see how the recipient was doing in regard to fulfilling his/her scholarship goals and furthering their studies. At the direction of Chief Lynn Grant, we will now report on our scholarship recipients and keep you informed and involved in their pursuit of the Scottish arts.

Audrey Trawick was awarded a scholarship this past Spring. On her own volition she wrote a very “newsy” letter describing her goals and achievements. Audrey, as you may recall, is from New Port Richey, Florida and is 16 years old. Her scholarship enabled her to attend the Ohio Scottish Arts School (OSAS). Her goals included: passing the Associate Teachers Exam, compete in the Ohio Open Championship, further develop her skills as a dancer and a teacher, and to compete in the United States Inter Regionals competition in July.

I am happy to report that Audrey did pass her Teacher’s exam, with the grade of “highly recommended”. The teacher’s exam is an oral exam. The examiner ask many questions on tempos, and bars per minute on certain dances, positions of feet and arms, counting and rhythm, and specific steps in the Highland Fling, Sword Dance, Sean Tribhas, and the four Highland Reel dances. In total there are 43 steps she was required to memorize, explain, and physically dance upon request by the examiner.

In Audrey’s own words:” I just wanted to say thank you one more time from the bottom of my heart. I could not have done this without your support. My success is also the success of the Highland communities like yours.”

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Kennedy
Scholarship Chair



WHERE WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THERE WILL BE A KENNEDY TENT SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2019

September 14-15: Ligonier Highland Games
Ligonier, PA

September 22-23: New Hampshire Highland Games
Loon Mountain, NH
(The Kennedy tent will not be held this year, but please enjoy the games!)

October 13: Scotland Connecticut Highland Games
Scotland, CT.

October 19-20: Stone Mountain Highland Games
Stone Mountain, GA

November 1-3: Scots on the Rock, Moab, UT

November 2: Charleston Scottish Games and Highland
Gathering, Charleston, SC

November 9: Clover Scottish Games
Clover, SC



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DEADLINE FOR WINTER ISSUE:
DECEMBER 2

Please submit copy and pictures for the winter issue no later than December 2nd.
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