



AnCuimean

Official Publication of Clan Cumming Society USA

December 2011

The society is dedicated to preserving and promoting the history and heritage of the ancient Scottish surname of Cumming, its variants, and associated names, and to further and share Scottish culture.

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Annual General Meeting

The **National General Meeting** took place in St. Louis Missouri on October 1st. The full minutes of that meeting are included in this newsletter starting on page 2, enjoy the reading.

Membership Renewal Time

Yes it's that time of year again. Time for all members of Clan Cumming to renew their memberships.

I'm attaching with this issue of AnCuimean a membership renewal for 2012.

If your **membership does not** end December 31st then please disregard the form and continue with your making merry.

I wish to thank all of you the membership of **Clan Cumming USA** for making us, the clan we have become today.

Merry Xmas & Happy New Year

From The Editors Desk.....

I'd like to shout a loud **COURAGE** to all our Clan Cumming USA members and their families. I hope everyone enjoys a safe and happy Holiday season.

I'd also like to apologize that this newsletter is coming so late to you all as I was hoping to have it published in September. Due to illness and other problems the newsletters 3rd printing is also the last printing for 2011. I hope to get enough time and material for 4 issues in 2012.



Remember anyone with noteworthy news or stories that would make a great addition to our Newsletter please submit those to me at my e-mail tcummings1@peoplepc.com
My Thanks – Timothy Cummings

National Annual General Meeting:



Annual general meeting of Clan Cumming Society of the United States held at Saint Louis, Missouri, on the 1st day of October, 2011, A.D.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Clan Cumming Society of the United States.

Officers Present:

Todd Wilkinson President
 Dr. Christopher Cummins Vice President
 G. Allen Cummings Secretary {Pro tem}
 John Sheets Treasurer
 G. Allen Cummings Communications Officer
 Father Scott Archer Historian
 Todd Wilkinson Midwest Region Commissioner
 Dr. Christopher Cummins Southern Region Commissioner
For additional Members present, see the attached register.

The Annual General Meeting of the Clan Cumming Society for 2011 was opened by President Todd Wilkinson.

The President stated that the purpose of the meeting was to conduct the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for 2011. The President asked Father Archer to open the meeting with prayer.

Old Business:

A copy of the minutes of the last AGM was passed out to each member attending prior to the opening of the meeting. The President stated that he would dispense from reading the minutes of the last AGM if all had previously read the minutes. The President asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. With none being stated, a motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes.

New Business:

Election of Officers – The President stated that the current office holders for vice president, secretary and treasurer were asked if they would serve another term of their respective offices; they will serve again. Todd Wilkinson nominated G. Allen Cummings for president. With no other nominations made, the President asked for a show of hands approving the slate of new officers, all of which were in the affirmative.

Highlander Ad - Christopher Cummins made a motion to obtain the larger size ad in the Highlander magazine and ensure that we included the spelling of all of the sept names. The motion was seconded and passed.

New Business: (cont.)

Scottish Tartans Museum Clan Society Membership - Todd Wilkinson asked that we look at obtaining an Affiliate Clan Membership. In addition to free admission and receiving their quarterly newsletter, our clan society would be eligible to receive 5% of gift shop purchases made on line or in person, if the designate their purchase as benefiting our clan society. No decision was made at this time.

Annual Report to the Chief of Clan Cumming - Todd Wilkinson asked that we make an annual report on activities and send to the Chief of Clan Cumming for his information. Todd stated that he would be willing to write the report.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer provided the following financial statement:

Balance as of January 1st, 2011: \$5,762.97
Deposits through August 30th, 2011: \$1781.75
Debits through August 30th, 2011: \$750.02
Bank charges for returned checks: \$117.75
Ending balance as of August 31, 2011: \$6676.95

Membership Report

2010 membership report was: (as of Jan 1, 2011)

Individual Memberships: 67
Family Memberships: 42
Total Memberships: 109
Expired Memberships: 17

2011 membership report is: (as of Sept. 30, 2011)

Individual Memberships: 58
Family Memberships: 31
Total Memberships: 89
Expired Memberships: 20

Clan Cumming website - G. Allen Cummings stated for the period of November 1st, 2010 to September 30th, 2011, (11 months) total visits to the website was 9,894 with a monthly average of 899.

G. Allen Cummings stated that since reorganization, he has maintained ownership and financial responsibility of the Clan Cumming website under the presumption that when the society was financially able it would assume full responsibility. With the financial report by the Treasurer favorable, and no further discussion, a motion was made, seconded and passed for Clan Cumming to assume ownership and financial responsibility of its website.

Tax Exempt Status - G. Allen Cummings stated that until we can fully comply with our bylaws, that any research into becoming a 501.3.c organization be halted. He also stated that money spent in legal fees with regards to the same would be wasted should the IRS audit our records and revoke the tax free status for noncompliance. A motion was made to modify our bylaws and have approved by the membership prior to proceeding further. The motion was seconded and passed.

Bylaw Issues - G. Allen Cummings stated that there are two concerns with the Bylaws as it is now written: The annual general meeting and executive board meetings need to be changed to every two (2) years to better fit our organization. Add an associate member status for step-children of Clan members or other interested persons. Associate members would not be allowed voting rights or hold national offices. A committee will be appointed within the near future by the new president to propose the above changes to the bylaws. Once agreed upon by the committee, the bylaws will be sent to current members with a ballot accepting or rejecting the changes.

Announcements:

G. Allen Cummings expressed his pleasure to finally meet others within Clan Cumming that he has known over the years through email.

Todd Wilkinson thanked all for coming.

Father Archer was asked to close the meeting with prayer.

Todd Wilkinson then closed the meeting.



Traditional Christmas Pudding Recipe

Ingredients:

4oz/110g plain flour
 8oz/225 golden caster sugar
 4oz/110g fresh white breadcrumbs
 2oz/55g flaked almonds
 8oz/225g suet
 12oz/340g sultanas
 12oz/340g raisins
 8oz/225g currants
 4oz/110g candied peel, chopped
 1 lemon, zest only
 5 well-beaten eggs
 1 level tsp mixed spice
 1 level tsp ground cinnamon
 1 level tsp/ freshly grated nutmeg
 pinch of salt
 5 fl oz/150 ml/ brandy or rum

Directions:

- Lightly grease 4 small (1 pt/600ml) or 2 larger (2pt/1.2litre) pudding bowls or basins.
- Mix together all the dry ingredients.
- Add in the eggs and brandy and mix thoroughly.
- Spoon the mix into basins.
- Put a circle of baking parchment paper and foil over the top of each basin and tie securely with string.
- Secure by making a string handle around the basin to the other (so you can lift it out easily)
- Put the basins in a large steamer of boiling water and cover with a lid. Boil for 5-6 hours, topping the boiling water up from time to time, if necessary. If you do not have a steamer, put the basins in a large pan on upturned saucers on the base. Pour in boiling water to come a third of the way up the sides of the pudding bowls. Cover and steam as above. Leave to Cool.
- Replace the baking parchment paper and foil covers with fresh ones and tie up again as above.
- Store in a cool cupboard until Christmas Day. To serve on Christmas Day: Steam for 2 hours and serve with one of the following:- brandy butter, rum sauce, fresh cream or homemade custard.

Scots in History:



"In Any Rank or Station": the life of General Hugh Mercer

While many Americans are aware that the "father" of the US Navy, John Paul Jones, was a Scot, America's other "Scottish rebel" during the War for Independence, General Hugh Mercer, is largely forgotten about today. Mercer was born on January 17, 1726 in the village of Pitsligo, Aberdeenshire, to William Mercer a Presbyterian minister, and Ann Monro. He attended Marischal College in Aberdeen, where he studied medicine, and served as an assistant surgeon with Jacobite forces under Prince Charles Edward Stewart at the Battle of Culloden in 1746. Ironically, Mercer's grandfather, Sir Robert Munro, was an officer in the British Army.

After the Jacobite defeat, Mercer sailed for America and landed in Philadelphia, just in time to serve in another conflict, The French & Indian War. In 1756, after the defeat of British General Edward Braddock, the Pennsylvania militia was called up for service on the Western frontier. Mercer accepted a commission as a captain. During his service, Mercer and a small party were separated from their unit and attacked by Indians; Mercer, the only survivor, walked 100 miles in 10 days back to his own forces. The Pennsylvania Gazette gave this account of Mercer's experiences:

We hear that Captain Mercer was 14 Days in getting to Fort Littleton. He had a miraculous Escape, living ten Days on two dried Clams and a Rattle Snake, with the Assistance of a few Berries. The Snake kept sweet for several Days, and, coming near Fort Shirley, he found a Piece of dry Beef, which our People had lost, and on Trial rejected it, because the Snake was better. His wounded Arm is in a good Way, tho' it could be but badly drest, and a Bone broken.

Promoted for his actions, Mercer, now a Colonel, found himself in 1758 among a force of Pennsylvania and Virginia militia attacking the French garrison at Ft. Duquesne. During this action Mercer shared command with George Washington. The French abandoned the fort on November 25, 1758, and it was renamed "Fort Pitt" in honor of the British Prime Minister William Pitt. Today it is known as Pittsburgh.

After the war ended, Mercer moved to Fredericksburg, Virginia, which boasted a large community of Scottish expatriates. Mercer joined Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge No. 4 (serving as Worshipful Master) served on the vestry of St. George's Anglican Church, opened an apothecary shop and began a "healthy" practice as a physician in his adopted hometown. Among his 100 patients was Mary Washington, the mother of the General and Mercer's friend. An English visitor remarked of Mercer that he was "a physician of great merit and eminence, and as a man, possessed of almost every virtue and accomplishment of a just and moderate way of thinking, and a generosity of principle."

While in Fredericksburg, He married Isabella Gordon and they had three children: Hugh Tennant Mercer, Ann Mercer Patton, and William Mercer. The Mercers purchased Ferry Farm from Washington in 1774. Active in revolutionary politics, Mercer soon found himself appointed as Colonel of the 3rd Regiment of Virginia militia, which was later seconded to the Continental Line. Among its ranks were the future President James Monroe, and future Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall.

Recognized for his intelligence and military knowledge by Washington, Mercer soon became one of his greatest subordinates, and reportedly inspired Washington's famous "crossing of the Delaware" before the Battle of Trenton in 1776.

Sadly, Mercer's service was cut short in 1777, when he was bayoneted by British soldiers at Princeton. Leading a force of 350 Americans, Mercer encountered a combined force of British Infantry and Cavalry. During the fight, Mercer's horse was shot from under him, and was surrounded by redcoats, who called on him to surrender. When Mercer drew his sword, he was bayoneted and left for dead. Not wishing to leave the field, the mortally wounded Mercer was propped up against an Oak tree (The "Mercer Oak") and then later taken to a field hospital in the home of Thomas Clarke. Mercer finally succumbed to his wounds on January 12, 1777.

"In Any Rank or Station": the life of General Hugh Mercer (cont)

Famous descendants of General Mercer include the songwriter Johnny Mercer, who wrote *Stardust*, *Moon River* and other popular ballads. Another descendent of the General also rose to military fame — General George S. Patton.

Statues of Mercer were erected in Fredericksburg and Philadelphia, and a 2005 article in the *Aberdeen Press & Journal* (reproduced on the Clan Munro Society's web site) noted that the home of his alma mater had recognized his connection to "The Granite City". His apothecary shop still stands in Fredericksburg today as a historic site.

Some historians (such as Douglas Southall Freeman) believe that had Mercer lived after Princeton, he might have commanded American forces in the Revolution, and not Washington. While such theories cannot be proven, we do know of his devotion to the American cause; he reportedly told the Virginia House of Burgesses in 1776 that he "would serve his adopted country and the cause of liberty in any rank or station", and (to Dr. Benjamin Rush, who treated him after Princeton) he "would cross the mountains and live among the Indians rather than submit to the power of Great Britain."

President Woodrow Wilson is said to have remarked that "every line of strength in American history is colored by Scottish blood." No doubt this Virginia native and President of Princeton University had General Hugh Mercer in mind when he uttered those words.

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Funny Bones



3 guys, 1 Irish, 1 English and 1 Scot, are walking along the beach one day and come across a lantern and a Genie pops out of it.

"I give you each one wish, that's three wishes in total", says the Genie.

The Irish guy says, "I am a fisherman, my Dad's a fisherman, his Dad was a fisherman and my son will be one too. I want all the oceans full of fish for all eternity."

So, with a blink of the Genie's eye "AlKaZoom" the oceans were teeming with fish.

The English guy was amazed, so he said, "I want a wall around England, protecting her, so that nothing will get in for all eternity.

Again, with a blink of the Genie's eye "AlKaZoom - POOF" there was a huge wall around England. The Scot asks, "I'm very curious. Please tell me more about this wall."

The Genie explains, "Well, it's about 150 feet high, 50 feet thick, protecting England so that nothing can get in or out."

The Scot says, "Ach, fill it up with water."

Altyre Estate in Scotland

This sporting Life (from <http://www.altyre-estate.co.uk/altyre-at-large/this-sporting-life.aspx>)

Stalking:

Altyre comprises over 3,500 hectares of commercial timber which provide a natural habitat for its roe deer. The estate manages its deer in a traditional way with regeneration of the woodland planned carefully to control and sustain roe numbers. Fifty per cent of the deer cull is let to an experienced Dutch syndicate.

Shooting:

Altyre hosts a small family pheasant shoot and also lets days to a number of local syndicates. It rears its own pheasants and the bag averages 100 birds. Traditional hospitality is provided in the Club Room at Blairs Farm Steading.

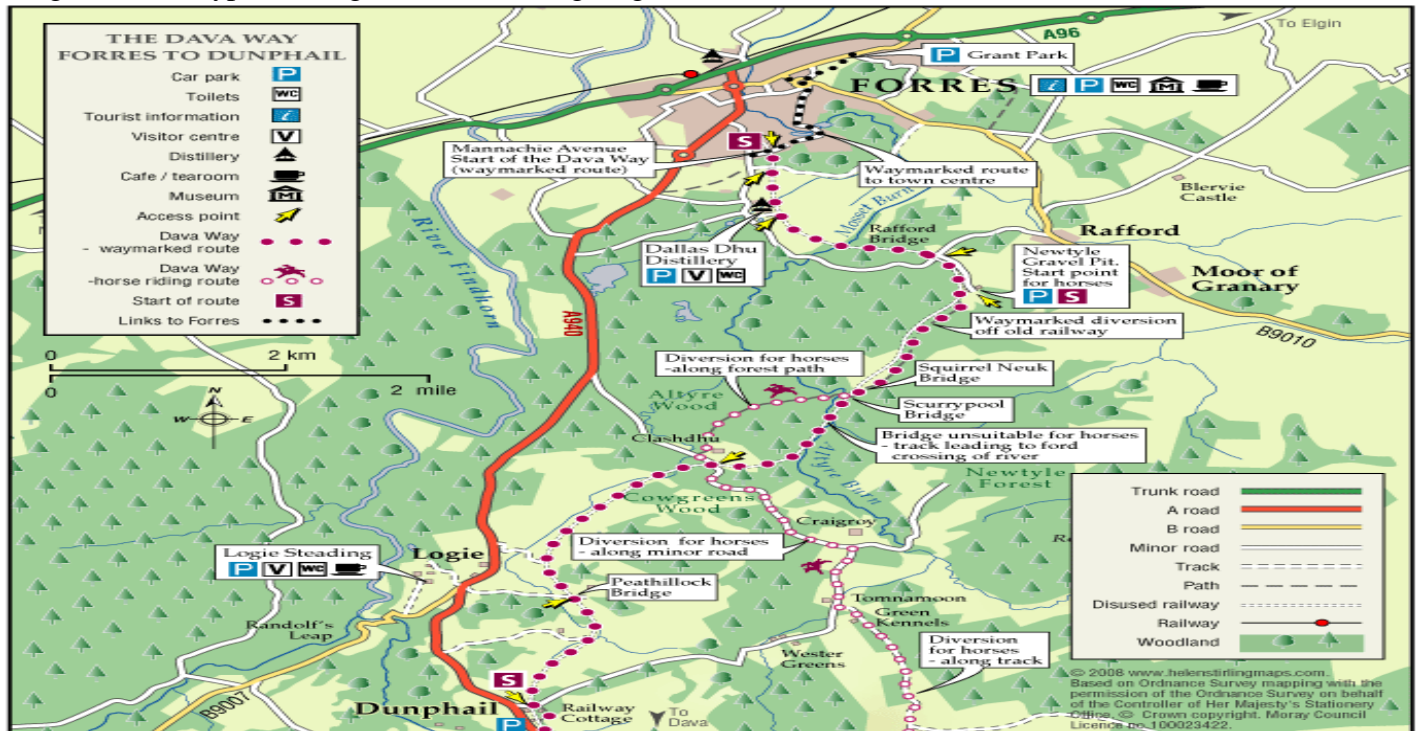
Fishing:

The River Findhorn runs down the western side of the estate. It comprises of 2 beats with 5 marked pools on each. Annual catches average about 70 fish.

More information on fishing can be found at www.fishscotland.co.uk. For bookings please visit www.speycaster.net

Country Trails:

Altyre welcomes walkers and trail users who take a responsible approach to the environment and who observe the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. The estate supports the Moray Core Paths Strategy. The 23 mile Dava Way, which links medieval Forres with Granttown and with the Cairngorms National Park, passes through the estate. It works its way through Altyre Wood and takes in a series of way marks on Altyre Burn such as Squirrel Neuk Bridge and Scurrypool Bridge before reaching Logie.



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