



# An Cuimean

Official Publication of Clan Cumming Society USA

January 2009

*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.*

## What's Inside

- Page 2 – Presidents Message
- Page 2 – Southern Commissioners Message
- Page 3 – Annual General Meeting
- Page 4 – Events for 2009
- Page 4 – Becoming a Convener
- Page 5 – Regional Commissioners Needed
- Page 5 – Submitting Articles to the Newsletter
- Page 5 – Remembering Where We Came From
- Page 6 – Society Contacts

## Sir Alistair & Lady Louisa Hospitalized

Sir Alistair Gordon-Cumming, his wife, Louisa and two family members were hospitalized in August 2008 after they unknowingly ate poisonous mushrooms they gathered in woodlands near the family home on the Altyre Estate. Although they had gathered mushrooms in the past, they were unaware some were of a highly toxic variety.

With Sir Alistair in the hospital were his sister, the singer-songwriter Charlotte and her husband, well known author Nicholas Evans, who had been staying with the family over the August bank holiday weekend. Mr. Evans is the author of 'The Horse Whisper' which was made into a Hollywood movie.

Currently, all have returned home and are doing well.

Sir Alistair, Lady Louisa, and their families remain in our prayers.

## Annual General Meeting

Currently, 22 members from Texas, Missouri, Louisiana, and Mississippi will be attending our AGM at the Texas Scottish Festival & Highland Games, Arlington, Texas. *Please see the complete article, Page 3.*

## One of Our Own Serving in Afghanistan

Clan Cumming Southern Commissioner, Dr. Christopher J. M. Cummins, is a Captain in the U.S. Army Reserve. Dr. Cummins departed in November, 2008, for a 3 to 4 month tour of duty in Afghanistan. Our prayers are with him and all of our armed forces.

## Calendar Fund Raiser Update

Our calendar fund raiser for 2009 was a great success. We ordered 30 calendars for 150 Great Britain Pounds, plus \$50 for wire transfer fee and domestic postage. To date we have received our invested funds back in full and currently have \$185 for deposit. Of the original orders, we still have an additional \$60 to collect.

Thank you to all that supported this project and to Past President Bill Cummings for all his hard work.

## Presidents Message



By the time these words reach you, the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns will have past; I hope each and every one of you were able to celebrate the birth of Scotland's ploughman-poet by attending a local Burns Supper, or at least raising a wee dram to "Oor Rabbie". I am always amazed at how the words of a simple farmer from the Carrick border still live on today, and how insightful of a man he was. It's fitting that 2009 is also the 200th birthday of Abraham Lincoln, who we are told was a great admirer of the Bard and his works, and even attended a Burns Supper in 1859!

Besides being members of the Clan Cumming Society, I also hope that many of you are involved in your local Scottish/Caledonian/St. Andrew's Societies as well. Since we are not able to gather the clan on a frequent basis, these local groups and organizations are one way for us to fulfill our mission to preserve and promote Scottish heritage and culture. I am proud to be the secretary of my local St. Andrew's society, and the friends I have made over the years as part of the Scottish community in Missouri are a part of my family as well.

As you will see in this newsletter, the AGM is fast approaching – we now have a quorum committed to attending, and I would certainly encourage all of our members to attend the meeting at the Arlington games in June if possible. I realize that the current economic situation may make this impossible for some, and I know you will be there "in spirit".

Lastly, please keep our Chief, Sir Alistair, his wife Lady Louisa and their family in your thoughts and prayers. At press time, they are still recovering from a very serious illness and I know that all members of our society send their best wishes and a speedy recovery to the head of our clan.

Courage!

Todd Wilkinson  
President, Clan Cumming Society



## Southern Commissioners Message

I would like every member in the Southern Region to email me. I know that we have more members that use email than we have on record. Second, I would like all members that are participating in any Highland Games this year to let me know, particularly if the member would like to become a convener. I do want all of our membership to know that Clan Cumming will be represented at Clan Jamfry in Memphis, Tennessee, at Evergreen Presbyterian Church in Midtown. Lastly, I encourage and challenge all members to recruit at least one member this year.

Christopher J.M. Cummins, MD  
Southern Region Commissioner

## Annual General Meeting

**A calling to the Clan! Broadwords aloft!** The Red River Region will host the Clan Cumming annual general meeting at the Texas Scottish Festival and Highland Games, Arlington, Texas, on Saturday June 6th.

Due to the cost associated with travel and living expenses, the venue for our AGM offers more than just attending another Scottish Festival. While the AGM provides a forum for conducting society business and for enabling members to meet one another and develop friendships within the society, the experience needs to be one that is well remembered as a great weekend or vacation.

Arlington is located between Dallas and Fort Worth (about 17 miles either direction), there's plenty to see and do from amusement parks, arts, culture and museums, gardens, parks, nightlife and entertainment, to sports and leisure.

The Red River Region will be providing a Texas BBQ meal with all the trimmings at no cost to those attending the AGM. We do, however, need to know how many will be attending so that an adequate amount of food is prepared and enough tables and chairs are available to seat everyone. Please let us know as soon as possible by completing and sending the AGM Registration Form that is included with the mailing of this newsletter. You may, however, complete your registration by visiting the website. Please click on the [Calling the Clan!](#) link located on the right side bar menu on the main page of the website.

### What say you, Cumming?

[Register today!](#)

## Attractions in the DFW Area

The Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) Area has plenty to see and do, from amusement parks, arts, culture and museums, gardens, parks, nightlife and entertainment, to sports and leisure.

Too many to name, a few attractions for the family are:

- Six Flags Over Texas theme park – Arlington
- Six Flags Over Texas Hurricane Harbor water park – Arlington
- Louis Tussaud's Palace of Wax & Ripley's Believe It or Not! – Grand Prairie
- Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza, Dallas – Permanent exhibit examines life, times and death of President John F. Kennedy with artifacts and videos
- Fort Worth Historic Stockyards – celebrate the mystique of the American West in 15 square blocks of rodeos, shopping, saloons, nightlife and more
- Billy Bob's of Texas, Fort Worth – Country & Western night club with live bull riding
- The Dallas World Aquarium – a unique attraction in downtown Dallas, featuring a saltwater aquarium and exhibits from around the world.

Plan now for a great vacation and attend the Society's AGM.

Clan Cumming will be represented at the following events in 2009

- Queen Mary Scottish Festival  
Long Beach, California  
February 14<sup>th</sup> ~ 15<sup>th</sup>
- North Texas Irish Festival  
Dallas, Texas  
March 6<sup>th</sup> ~ 8<sup>th</sup>
- Scottish Gathering & Games  
Bakersfield, California  
April 4<sup>th</sup>
- San Antonio Highland Games & Celtic Music Festival  
San Antonio, Texas  
April 4<sup>th</sup> ~ 5<sup>th</sup>
- Sacramento Valley Scottish Games & Festival  
Sacramento, California  
April 25<sup>th</sup> ~ 26<sup>th</sup>
- General Sam Houston Festival  
Huntsville, Texas  
May 1<sup>st</sup> ~ 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Houston Highland Games & Celtic Festival  
Houston, Texas  
May 16<sup>th</sup> ~ 17<sup>th</sup>
- Texas Scottish Festival & Highland Games  
Arlington, Texas  
June 5<sup>th</sup> ~ 7<sup>th</sup>
- Scottish Highland Games & Gathering of the Clans  
Modesto, California  
June 6<sup>th</sup>
- Monterey Scottish Games & Celtic Festival  
Monterey, California  
August 1<sup>st</sup> ~ 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Scottish Highland Gathering & Games  
Pleasanton, California  
September 5<sup>th</sup> ~ 6<sup>th</sup>
- Fresno Highland Gathering & Games  
Fresno, California  
September 19<sup>th</sup>
- Clan Jamfry  
Memphis, Tennessee  
September 25<sup>th</sup> ~ 27<sup>th</sup>
- Loch Lomond Highland Games & Celtic Gathering  
Ben Lomond, California  
October 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Seaside Highland Games  
Ventura, California  
October 10<sup>th</sup> ~ 11<sup>th</sup>
- Salado Scottish Clan Gathering & Highland Games  
Salado, Texas

**Would you like to become a convener?**

We are seeking conveners to represent Clan Cumming at Scottish Festivals and Highland Games in **YOUR** area. If you would like to become a convener, please let us know – see *Contacts, page 6*.

## Regional Commissioners Needed

We are looking to grow and need Commissioners to organize and solicit membership in the following areas:

- Northeast Region – includes Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania
- Rocky Mountain Region – includes Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho
- Southwest Region – includes Arizona and New Mexico

If you are interested, or know of someone that is, please contact Todd Wilkinson via email at [clancomyn@gmail.com](mailto:clancomyn@gmail.com) or please send correspondence to:

Todd Wilkinson  
2017 S. Link Avenue  
Springfield, MO 65804-2542

## Submittal of Articles for the Newsletter

Short stories or articles of interest can be submitted for publication in the newsletter. Please send to:

G. Allen Cummings  
7409 Jessica Way  
Rowlett, TX 75089-3016

Or email to [cummings75089@yahoo.com](mailto:cummings75089@yahoo.com)

## Remembering Where We Came From

*By the Auld Yin Hisel, G. Allen Cummings, Rowlett, Texas*

Have you ever considered the real reason of what Scottish Festivals and Highland Games are all about? Why we dress at various times during the year in Scottish attire? Why we honor National Tartan Day, celebrate Robert Burns as well as other things Scottish?

Within all of us who are of Scottish blood, we are acutely aware of our dispersion throughout the world and assimilation into other nations. And that we are of one people held together by a common culture. Because of this awareness, we gather at various places throughout the year promoting friendship among North Americans who enjoy a distant kinship, and encourage through education, the perpetuation of our history, music and the folklore of our forbearers.

As I was growing up, on several occasions my father told me, "never forget where you came from; and never forget who you are EVER". I would encourage all to remember my father's words. The next time you're at a Scottish Festival take an extra moment to really listen to the pipes, to enjoy Scottish dance and talk about your Clan and Scottish history with others.

I have friends in both Edinburgh and Glasgow who remind me from time to time that it is their perception that we are more knowledgeable about Scottish history than some in their own country, which brings me back to my father's words. Be diligent in passing your heritage on to you children, least we forget where we came from and who we are.



## Clan Cumming Contacts

Todd Wilkinson – President  
2017 S. Link Avenue  
Springfield, MO 65804-2542  
Email: [clancomyn@gmail.com](mailto:clancomyn@gmail.com)

Rev. Scott C. Hall – Secretary  
5508 South 37th Terrace  
St. Joseph, MO, 64503-2228

Loum Snow – Treasurer  
PO Box 97  
Littleton, NH 03561  
Email: [loum1742@msn.com](mailto:loum1742@msn.com)

G. Allen Cummings – Webmaster/Newsletter  
7409 Jessica Way  
Rowlett, TX 75089-3016  
Email: [cummings75089@yahoo.com](mailto:cummings75089@yahoo.com)

Bill Cummings – Past National President  
Pacific Region Commissioner  
PO Box 2911  
Rohnert Park, CA 94927-2911  
Email: [wildbillbart2@yahoo.com](mailto:wildbillbart2@yahoo.com)

Dawn Burgess  
Red River Commissioner  
1305 E. Hanson  
Cleveland, TX 77327  
Email: [dawn\\_burgess53@yahoo.com](mailto:dawn_burgess53@yahoo.com)

Dr. Christopher Cummins  
Southern Region Commissioner  
81 CR 849  
Blue Mountain, MS 38601  
Email: [giuseppe398@yahoo.com](mailto:giuseppe398@yahoo.com)

Timothy and Patricia Cummings  
Central Coast of California Conveners  
17595 Vierra Canyon Road PMB#158  
Prunedale, CA 93907  
Email: [tcummings1@peoplepc.com](mailto:tcummings1@peoplepc.com)

Judi Cummings Daunell  
South Central California Convener  
8 Quincy Street  
Bakersfield, CA 93305  
Email: [jcumplingsdaunell@yahoo.com](mailto:jcumplingsdaunell@yahoo.com)

Bill Cummings  
North Texas & Oklahoma Convener  
5801 Coleman Street  
West Worth Village, TX 76114  
Email: [wgcscotclan@yahoo.com](mailto:wgcscotclan@yahoo.com)



Clan Cumming Society USA  
AGM Registration

*Please print legibly*

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt#: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number in your party attending: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please ensure that you check one of the following:*

- My NAME, CITY, STATE AND EMAIL ADDRESS may be published on the public area of Clan Cumming website.  
 DO NOT publish ANY the above information on the public area of Clan Cumming website.

Please mail this form to:

Clan Cumming Society AGM  
C/O G. Allen Cummings  
7409 Jessica Way  
Rowlett, TX 75089-3016