



An Cuimean

Official Publication of Clan Cumming Society USA

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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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Clan Cumming USA Website

Our website is located on the world wide web at <http://www.clancumming.us> See Regional Pages on the main menu to keep up with Clan Cumming Society activities through out the United States.

As more interest in the society develops, more regions will eventually be formed. During the initial stages of re-establishing Clan Cumming Society, Texas was initially part of the Midwest region. Due to the good work of Dawn Burgess, interest was of such that a new region, Red River, was formed to facilitate Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. Dawn is the Commissioner of the Red River Region and has 2 additional conveners to assist her.

E-Newsletter

An electronic version of the newsletter is available. If you would prefer to receive the newsletter by email instead of regular mail, please contact Allen Cummings.

Upcoming Events

- September 1st & 2nd - Caledonian Club of San Francisco's 142nd Annual Scottish Games and Gathering, Pleasanton, California.
- September 7th & 8th - Southwest Missouri Celtic Heritage Festival & Highland Games, Buffalo, Missouri.
- September 15th & 16th - Oklahoma Scottish Games and Gathering, Tulsa, Oklahoma.
- October 5th & 6th - 7th Annual St. Louis Scottish Games, St. Louis, Missouri.
- October 6th - Loch Lomond Games & Gathering, Felton, California.
- November 10th, 11th & 12th - Salado Gathering of the Clans, Salado, Texas.



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President's Message



Dear fellow Clan members,

Greetings! My name is Todd Wilkinson, and I am the new President of the Clan Cumming Society USA. I wanted to write not only to introduce myself, but to also inform you of the current happenings in our society. We'll begin with the latter.

We are continuing to rebuild and reorganize the society, and we appreciate your patience with the national officers, who are doing the best they can. On a positive note, we have seen a number of new members join the society this year, as well as new convenors and commissioners being appointed. We have two new regions; the Red River region, which covers Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma, and the Southern region, which covers the Southern United States. The Red River's Commissioner is Dawn Burgess, who has been very active in promoting the society at many games and festivals in her area, and the Southern Commissioner is Christopher Cummings, who is also been active at "showing the colours" through his involvement with the Scottish American Military Society.

Here in the Midwest, we had a wonderful turnout of Cummings (18 in all) at the Missouri Tartan Day Festival in St. Charles in April. We were the honored clan for the event and everyone agreed that it was a very successful and fun gathering. We're hoping to have a repeat at the Southwest Missouri Celtic Festival and Highland Games in Buffalo, Missouri on September 7 & 8. Please join us if you can, as we'd love to have a large contingent of Cummings there.

Most Presidents use their introductory letter as a way to announce their goals for the organization, and I am going to be no different. At present, we have a by-laws committee, consisting of Allen Cummings, our webmaster; Past President Bill Cummings, and Southern Commissioner Christopher Cummings. The committee is at present examining and updating our old by-laws for the national organization. We are hoping to have a new national constitution and by-laws in place before the end of 2007.

Some of the issues that the new constitution and by-laws will address will be duties and terms-of-office for national officers; membership levels, dues and renewal information; our society newsletter and other forms of communication and regional organizations and their relationship with the national society.

Elections for national officers will be held sometime this fall; as in the past, ballots with information about the candidates will be sent to each member, who may mail them back to the society secretary so the votes may be counted.

I would also like to call an Annual General Meeting of the society next October (2008), with a possible venue being the St. Louis Scottish Games. St. Louis would be an ideal location for a national meeting, given its geographical location along major transportation routes, and the St. Louis games themselves, which are one of the premier Scottish events in the Midwest. I know several of the organizers and I'm sure they would love to have us hold our meeting there.

Society web master Allen Cummings has designed a brilliant web site for us at www.clancumming.us, and has recently been appointed our newsletter editor. Like the newsletter, the web site is another platform for society members to read about our clan, as well as our activities. A "tip o' the bonnet" to Allen for all of his hard work and dedication!

Likewise, a "tip o' the bonnet" as well to past presidents Bill Cummings and Irv Cummings in keeping the society "alive and kicking" during this time of transition for us. Their dedication to our mission is greatly appreciated!

I would also be remiss in forgetting our Secretary and Treasurer, Scott Hall and Loum Snow, who do much of the unglamorous paperwork, but our the backbone of our society. Thank you, gentlemen, for your efforts!

Back at the beginning of the letter I promised you a personal introduction:

I am a librarian & adjunct instructor of history at Ozarks Technical Community College in Springfield, Missouri. I also am a Seasonal Park Ranger with the US National Park Service at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield just outside Springfield. I attended (Southwest) Missouri State University and received my Bachelor's and Master's of Arts degrees in history there.

My wife Page and I reside in Springfield. We attend St. John's Episcopal Church. Page is French-Cajun in heritage, so our marriage is the personification of the "Auld Alliance" between Scotland and France, so to speak.

Besides our society, I am a member of the Scottish St. Andrew's Society of Springfield, the Scottish Tartans Authority and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, as well as several other fraternal and civic groups.

Finally, let me just say that if there is anything I can do for you in my official capacity as President, please do not hesitate to contact me - I will do my best to help. A Society President is a servant to the members, in my opinion, and I am here to work for you and for the good name of Cumming to make sure that our clan's long and storied history is preserved for future generations. And if you are interested in helping the society - writing articles, collecting genealogical data, hosting a clan tent at the local games - please let me know as well.

Courage!

Todd Wilkinson
President



Buchan Pipe Band Project

By Bill Cummings, Past National President, Clan Cumming Society USA



Bill Cummings is pictured with the Buchan Pipe Band – 1st row, extreme left.

A volunteer project to support financially the Buchan Pipe Band from Peterhead, Scotland has gotten under way this year. This tremendously successful band has represented the Buchan District as well as being the only Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association member wearing the Cumming tartan.

The band was founded in 1970 and competed throughout Scotland as a Grade IV level. In 1992 they founded the North of Scotland Champion of Champions competition that still runs today. During the early 90's the band was moving up the Pipe Band ranks with great success. They even appeared with Rod Stewart in concert. It was during this same period I had contacted the band secretary asking for more information on the band and expressing my interest in their success. It was amazing seeing them in Glasgow at the World Pipe Band competition playing among other tunes "Willie Cumming's Rant" It was no small matter that they also wore our beloved Cumming Tartan.

I was sending them articles from the Western United States Pipe Band Association that I belonged to and general piping material. At the time my piping teacher was Donald Shaw Ramsey here in Northern California where he had retired. Mr. Ramsey was at one time the Pipe Major for the celebrated Edinburgh Police Pipe Band that won the World Championship three times. One of the new tune arrangements that he had written was entitled "Desert Storm" after the 1992 war. I got permission to send this tune to the Buchan Pipe Band for their use.

During the 1995-1996 season the band achieved success dominating the competition in the Grade II category. In August 1996 I was lucky to see the band win the Grade II World Championship and included in their tune list was "Desert Storm". The band competed for several years as a Grade I before settling in the Grade II again.

In April 2003 when Past President Rev. Irv Cummings and I visited with the new Chief of the Clan, Sir Alastair Gordon Cumming I arranged to have a group of the pipers from the band come over from Peterhead and surprise him on the lawn at Altyre. He and Lady Louise with their children were thrilled with the reception and invited the band members in for tea afterwards. The band has maintained this connection since.

Once again I met up with the band at the World Championship this last August 2006 and got to spend time with members and get a first hand look behind the scenes. It was at this meeting that the project was suggested by me as a way to support a Scottish cultural activity directly related to the Clan Cumming Society.

The project itself remains one of financially assisting some of the younger students and university age pipers in the band. Scottish bands have absolutely wonderful trophies to compete for but the cost to maintain a band at grade level is large. As a result they must charge annual fees to their members. Your donations are sent to the band secretary and are used to support the younger members. Visit the Buchan Pipe Band website at www.buchanpipeband.com. I am accepting all donations to be sent to the band. You can send your donation to:

Mr. William Cummings
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Buchan Pipe Band marching up to the competition line in Glasgow, August, 2006.

