



CLAN CUNNINGHAM

COMMUNIQUE

www.clancunningham.us

www.geocities.com/clancunninghamusa

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 17, APRIL 15, 2005 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

District of Gunninghame Historic Sites Tour 2004

by Larry A. Augsbury, International Newsletter Publisher.



PHOTO BY LARRY AUGSBURY

From left to right: Members of The Mauchline Burns Club, Andrew Lindsay, Jim Shirkie, President James Davidson and Bob Baillie were part of the Mauchline welcoming party that rolled out the red carpet for Clan Cunningham during our visit to the heart of Robert Burns country. Above, in Poosie Nansies, we enjoyed Burns poetry recited by Andy and Jim, as well as Burns songs performed by Bob.

The **Clan Cunningham Communique** is published quarterly on the 15th of every January, April, July and October by the Clan Cunningham Society of America, Inc., a non-profit corporation chartered in the state of Colorado and established in 1985 with the blessing of the Lord Lyon King of Arms in Scotland and distributed to current members.

Editor's Note

This issue picks up our tour where our last issue left off, due to space and time constraints, with our society organized International Clan Cunningham Historical Sites Tour of France and the District of Cunninghame, Scotland which culminated with our second consecutive International Clan Cunningham Gathering in Scotland, which took place at Stirling Castle last November 28, 2004.

This issue marks the seventeenth newsletter that I have had the privilege to edit and publish over the last five years. Valerie Cunningham, our Colorado State Commissioner, has volunteered to assume the Newsletter Editor's office beginning with our July 2005 issue. Thank you all for your support!

Larry Augsbury

CCSA Historical Sites Tour of the District of Cunninghame, Scotland continued... Day Three



Jennea and Rick Augsbury arrive at Aiket Castle with owner Robert Clow welcoming them at the gate. The three hundred year feud between the Cunninghams and the Montgomerys has obviously been left far behind in the past!

by CCSA, to every host of the sites we were graciously permitted to visit, Larry was pleasantly surprised to receive a copy of the 200 page book edited by Robert Clow entitled "Restoring Scotland's Castles" in return. Aiket Castle is one of the eleven castles featured within its pages with an account of the restoration from ruins to completion of one of the most charming castles inhabited in Scotland.

With only about seven hours of daylight in Scotland, during the month of November, we arrived at the first of our three visits on Thursday, November 25th, **Aiket Castle**, (pictured above) at dawn, where we were greeted by owner Robert Clow, who just happens to be a descendant of the Montgomery Clan!

We were treated to a guided tour of the exterior and interior of the castle, which was purchased in ruins, and subsequently restored to its present impressive stature under the direction of Robert Clow. The castle has a colorful past, full of the intrigue of the Clan Cunningham feuds over the centuries, some of which Robert shared with us during our tour. The Cunninghams of Aiket, an ancient branch descended from Gilbert de Cunningham of the thirteenth century, were active in most of the other branches' feuds along with a few of their own, like that with the Mures during the sixteenth century.

As was our practice, to present a copy of the Special Historical Sites Tour 2004 Edition of our Clan Cunningham, Origins, Heritage and Traditions book published



Robert Clow and Larry Augsbury signed, dated and exchanged books in the restored Great Hall of Aiket Castle.



Chris and JoAnn Cunningham at Aiket Castle.

After some refreshments of coffee, tea and biscuits, we conveyed our warm thanks, said our farewells and ventured on to the next Clan Cunningham stronghold.

Our second visit was to **Robertland**. This cadet branch of the Cunninghams was descended, from the 15th century, from William Cunningham, the second son of Sir Alexander Cunningham, Lord Kilmaurs and later Earl of Glencairn by royal charter from King James III. The present Georgian style house replaced the old castle that was built in 1597 by David



Some of us crossed the Swinzie Burn to the top of the hill to the ruins of the castle covered by grass and gorse bush.

Cunningham, whose ancestor received a charter for the Barony in 1506. It was torn down, with its stones still on the grounds used to build the garden wall. (below)



Sheryl, Chris and Valerie with the Baron of Robertland, Alan Burns Williamson at the garden wall made of stones from the castle.

<u>In this Issue:</u>	<u>Pages</u>
Poosie Nansies in Mauchline	1
Historical Sites Tour of Scotland	2-6
Secretary's Report	7
Treasurer's Report	7
High Commissioner's Report	7
Clan Cunningham Gathering	8

Scottish Clans and Castles Ltd.
The Old Stables, Househill, Nairn, IV12 5RY
Tel: 01667 455499
e.mail: info@clansandcastles.com
www.clansandcastles.com

Touring Holidays to
Clan Lands & Castles
Driver-Guided Tours

Clans and Castles



Upon our arrival, we received a warm welcome from the Baron, who gave us a guided tour of the estate, pointed out the significantly carved stones in the garden wall from the castle, and led us to the scarcely visible ruins on the hill. On our return to the mansion,

we were shown around, visited with the Baron's parents, and enjoyed some welcome refreshments. Among the many topics of interest Alan Alexander Burns Williamson of Robertland shared with us, were his armorial bearings, reprinted above with his permission. Of special interest to Cunninghams is the crest of a fox from the Robertland estate with the Barony in its paw, as well as the shakefork on the shield, taken from the nearby town of Stewarton's armorials, which in turn was taken from the Cunningham armorials. Our editor especially likes the motto, "Res non Verba," meaning "Deeds not Words."

After another all too brief visit, we were obligated to depart for our next visit.

We were expected by Captain Robert and Rose-Ann Cuninghame at **Caprington Castle!**



Shortly after our arrival and warm welcome, we sat down to a splendid lunch of salmon while we got acquainted. (below)



Following lunch we were treated to a grand tour of the impressive castle, which took us from the main entrance, up a grand staircase, guarded on both sides by suits of armor and other heirlooms which conjured up visions of generations of

storied military exploits from this Caprington branch of the Cunninghams.



In the center of the castle is a magnificent atrium with family portraits decorating the walls of the mezzanine level. The four walls above are adorned with double-panel murals depicting the contrasting four seasons of the year motif which lead up to the skylight, affording a soft ambient light to the pastoral setting.



Captain Robert Cuninghame

Our tour even included the roof which afforded some splendid vistas. (below)



Chris, Robert, Rose-Ann, Rick & Frances



Rose-Ann Cuninghame, *above*, was a valuable resource during the planning of our tour, and a more knowledgeable, gracious and generous hostess we could not have hoped for. Rose-Ann arranged for us to also visit the elegant - both inside and out - Fairlie House pictured *below*.



Following our return to Caprington, the ladies and gents were given the separate use of two exquisitely appointed bedrooms to use as dressing rooms to prepare ourselves for our Thanksgiving Feast. With the traditional turkey and all the trimmings, prepared to perfection, we might not have noticed we were in Scotland, except for a few notable differences: no football game on in the background, we were in a genuine castle instead of the home we call our castle back in the US, and the delicious bread sauce for the stuffing that gave our feast a distinctive Scottish flavor! Jennea, Capt. Robert and JoAnn await the pumpkin pie, of course, *pictured directly below!*



At right: Larry presents Capt. Robert Cuninghame with our CCSA leather-bound Clan Cunningham book and our heartfelt thanks for their hospitality!



CCSA 2004 Historical Sites Tour of the District of Cunninghame, Scotland, continued

From Caprington Castle we drove to our next hotel, in Ayr, where we stayed for the next two nights, with a view of the Firth of Clyde and on a clear day to the Isle of Arran and the Mull of Kintyre.



Day four of our Scottish tour begins at daybreak at "The Place" in Kilmaurs, the original seat of the Cunninghams and Lords Kilmaurs from the 12th century, where still can be found the remains of the 15th century castle next to which stands the current "Place" built by the 9th Earl of Glencairn and privately owned by Martin and Mary Horner who have kindly granted us a visit this morning.



Above are the ruins of the 15th century castle, which make a very nice patio. The right half have been restored into a beautiful recreation room as seen below.



From left Martin Horner, Alastair Cunningham, Jennea Augsburg, JoAnn, Valerie and Sheryl

J. Higgins, Ltd.
2005

Highland Apparel
Scottish Imports
(800) 426-7268
Fax (913) 894-0217
P.O. Box 14341
Lenexa, KS 66285-4341
www.jhiggins.net

Following our guided tour inside and out by Martin, we were invited into their beautiful Place for refreshments where we visited, and Martin showed us an ancient map of the District of Cunninghame by Timothy Pont surveyed and drawn between c1590-c1610. He shared the name of the shop in Edinburgh where he acquired it, and Larry purchased one there as well. Larry presented Martin & Mary below



with our book, extended our appreciation, goodbyes and thanks for everything.

We drove the short distance into **Kilmaurs** where we parked and wandered about the town, past the Council House, strolled along Carmel water, by Maaks Well, shopped and snacked at the Gleg Whittle before our visit to the **St. Maur's-Glencairn Church** where we were greeted by William and Jim Gray, lifelong resident experts of Kilmaurs local history.

The Cunninghams played a principal role in the history of Kilmaurs and have left their indelible mark on this Burgh. William, assisted by his son Jim, gave us an informative tour showing us the church, the grounds, the Glencairn Aisle and monument inside, along with many Cunningham memorials while explaining the details and Cunningham connections.



Above, William points out to Rick the photo of the 1937-1938 Kilmaurs Football Team on page 116 of the book "Kilmaurs Past and Present" in which William is pictured as a boy! Such, was the depth of knowledge, anecdotes, and history from which we benefited during this visit.

We were able to inspect in detail the sculptured mural commissioned in 1600 by the 7th Earl of Glencairn, James Cunningham, of his family of ten.



Above, Alastair Cunningham and Jim Gray inspect the intricate detail of the monument carved from local close-grained freestone over 400 years ago!

The vault within which the monument rests is known as the **Glencairn Aisle**. The orangish tombstone erected on the left of the gable wall of the Aisle, behind and beside Larry's shadowy figure, below,



is that of Rev. Alexander Millar referred to as "Wee Millar" in Robert Burns' poem "The Holy Fair" whose situation at the time, Burns described with the following:

*"Wee Millar neist, the guard relieves
An' orthodoxy raibles
Tho' in his heart he weel believes,
An' thinks it auld wives fables"*

We wandered about, reading the many Cunningham commemorative plaques and tombstones, like Fairlie Cunningham's of Fairlie House, which we visited earlier. William, had a look at the newest addition to his historical book collection, below,



who was the final recipient of our Clan Cunningham Special Tour edition book.

With heartfelt thanks to William and Jim for their friendly generosity, we set off for Mauchline, in the heart of Burns country, where he lived, loved and wrote.

As we approached town, we called the Treasurer of the **Mauchline Burns Club**, Donald Howe, on his cell phone for directions to our rendezvous point. We were surprised to find a Club welcoming committee awaiting, including President, Jim Davidson, in full highland dress, and a piper!

Following the warm fraternal greeting, and introductions, we were fortunate to have Burns Club Secretary, Ian Lyell, as our tour guide of central Mauchline, which began at the house of estate agent and lawyer Gavin Hamilton who was a patron and friend of Robert Burns. (below)



From left: Sheryl Cunningham, Kenny Caldwell (videographer for a Burns Club documentary on Mauchline by Being There Productions) and guide Ian Lyell.

Our walk continued to the Kirkyard of the Mauchline Parish Church (scene of THE HOLY FAIR which poem is described in -The Complete Works of Robert Burns, Edinburgh, William P. Nimmo, 1872 – as "...by far the ablest of the satires Burns leveled at the Church; and his worst enemies could not avoid confessing that it was as well deserved as it was clever... and from that time forward there was a manifest improvement in the bearing of ministers and people on such occasions.") Here at the graveyard are buried many of the characters about whom Burns' wrote like "Master Tootie," "James Humphrey," "Daddy Auld," "Clockie Brown," "Poosie Nansie," "Godly Brydan," "Mary Morison," and "Holy Willie."

Our next destination was the Burns House Museum in the same building and rooms where in 1788 he lived with his wife Jean Armour, became a father, and established himself as a poet of repute at age 27. The museum has a state-of-the-art audio-visual presentation, and also houses fine art, artifacts, exhibitions of original manuscripts and songs, and publications like the original Kilmarnock Edition, as well as letters to friends like Edinburgh lawyer, Alexander Cunningham.

We then strolled the short distance to the main crossroad in town called the Mauchline Cross and to the library where the world's first statue of the wife of Robert Burns, Jean Armour, had been

erected in November 2002, for some photographs and an interview for the documentary, that was unexpectedly requested and happily granted. (below)



Mauchline Burns Club President, James Davidson, and Clan Cunningham Society High Commissioner, Larry Augsbury.

We were then invited to Poosie Nansie's Inn for some nourishment, some refreshment, and some Robert Burns entertainment courtesy of the Burns Club.

First, we were all treated to a lovely Robert Burns gift box which included a 48 page book of historical photographs compiled by the Mauchline Burns Club called "Mauchline In Times Past" commemorating the bicentennial anniversary of the publication of Burns' Kilmarnock Edition of his poems. It also included a CD-ROM with a wealth of biographies, images, video clips, poems, songs and more.

We then enjoyed some Burns poetry recited by Jim Shirkie and Andy Lindsay, followed by Burns songs performed by Bob Baillie, as pictured below.



From left: Jim Shirkie, Andy Lindsay, Bob Baillie, Bob Ramsay & Jim Davidson of the Mauchline Burns Club.

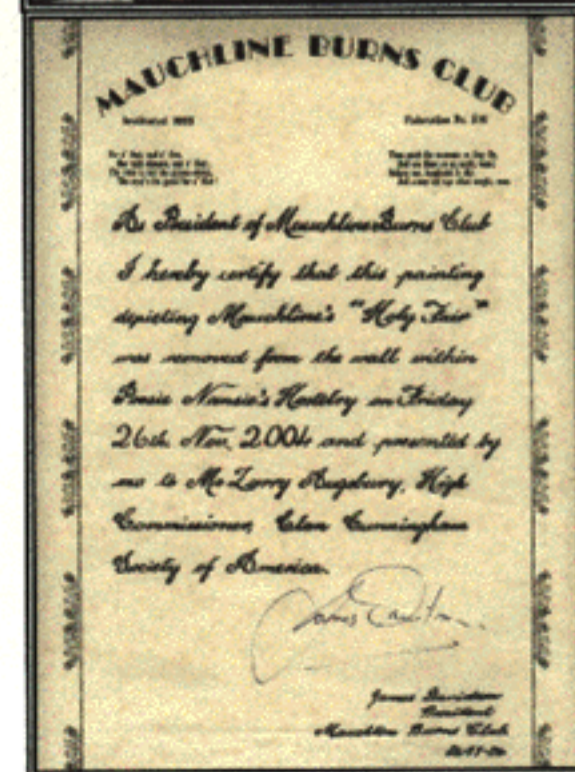


Following Bob's stirring rendition of the song "Ac Fond Kiss," Jim Davidson took the floor and presented Larry with a Mauchline Burns Club CD of the Burns Cantana "The Jolly Beggars." How fitting, since this famous poem, or rather drama, was based on a scene which actually took place in 1785 at Poosie Nansie's and was witnessed by the bard!

From "The Jolly Beggars"

*In Poosie Nansie's held the splore,
To drink their orra duddies:
Wi' quaffing and laughing,
They ranted and they sang;
Wi' jumping and thumping
The vera girdle rang.*

Jim then walked over to a painting of "The Holy Fair" hanging on the wall of Poosie Nansie's hostelry, removed it and presented it to Larry as a token of friendship, together with a certificate documenting the event, as pictured below.



CCSA Historical Sites Tour of the District of Cunninghame, Scotland and Gathering 2004, continued.

Larry was clearly caught off-guard by this unexpected gesture of goodwill; and with a glint in his eye, conveyed his gratitude to Jim Davidson and the Mauchline Burns Club for the kind gifts.

Lunch was then ready, so we moved into an adjoining room of the hostelry for some refreshment including a bite to eat and a wee dram - following a toast to new acquaintances - all accompanied by poetry, music and song.

A value can not be put on fond memories, for they are priceless. Such are the memories of our experiences shared with the members of the Mauchline Burns Club and their hospitality. It was only fitting that we ended our visit with the Burns song "Auld Lang Syne" led by Bob Baillie.

On the way back to our hotel in Ayr, we stopped in **Alloway** to visit the birthplace of Robert Burns. (below)



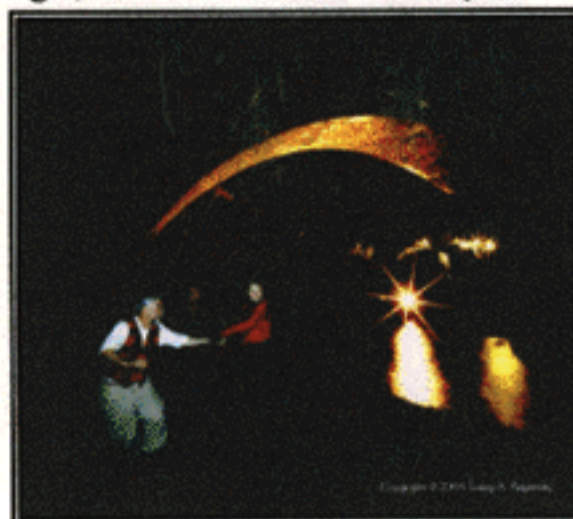
Since we arrived after dark, and the historical Burns site's closing times, we decided to explore the **Brig o' Doon** for any sign of the witch Nannie, or other carlins as were described in the most popular of all Burns' works, his tale of "Tam o' Shanter."

As we passed under the brig o' Doon, we were stopped dead in our tracks by a blinding flash of light! (below) We



scrambled about the shore, dazed and confused, trying to make sense of the confusion. Larry was dragged down to the ground from behind. He managed to break free, his jacket torn from his back. We joined hands and frantically made a break for the Doon - for it's a universally-

known fact that no diabolical power can pursue you beyond the middle of a running stream - when we were struck once again by another blinding flash of light, below. We made it safely to the



opposite bank, scrambled into our waiting van, and off to the safety of our Ayr hotel. What a close call, and a day to remember!

Saturday morning we checked out of our hotel and headed for Stirling. On the way we would visit the **Bannockburn Heritage Center** and Sauchieburn, the sites of two historically significant battles for Cunninghams as well as Scotland.

Cunninghams played a significant role in the battle of Bannockburn on June 23 and 24, 1314, where the Scottish forces led by Robert the Bruce met the English forces of King Edward II for not only the prize of Stirling Castle (in the background of the Robert the Bruce Monument photo by Larry Augsbury below) but also the



freedom of Scotland. In 1306 Robert Bruce declared himself King of Scots and that same year Robert Cunningham declared for Bruce. Both Robert and

James Cunningham and their clansmen served in the 4th division commanded by Bruce himself. Robert Cunningham was granted lands in Cunninghame, Lambruchtan and Grugar, while James Cunningham was granted Hassendean in Roxburghshire by Robert the Bruce for their contributions and valor in battle.



Above, Rick Augsbury looks at ease in the chain-mail of a medieval knight. We're glad to have him on our side!

Despite the steady rain, we went in search of the site of the battle of Sauchieburn, where both King James III of Scotland and the 1st Earl of Glencairn, Alexander Cunningham were slain. Very little information about the battle is available, and nothing remains of the site of the battle except for this marker between Frances Powers and Chris Cunningham in the photo below.



The marker reads:

BEATONS MILL

Close by is the ancient well
Near which James III was murdered
After the Battle of Sauchieburn
8th June 1488

With the weather putting a damper on any further exploration desires, we decided to head for our hotel and check in. We were staying within easy walking distance of Stirling castle, for the Gathering the following day. Our hotel had a jacuzzi, sauna and lap pool, and there were plenty of shops and pubs nearby. We all met for a fine supper at the hotel, with the afternoon and evening off.

Continued on page 8

Cathandon Fine Arts & Crafts

Gordon Cunningham
Kate Buchanan

Telephone: Mobile:
01324 716954 07754 724922
From the USA: 011 44 1324 716954
Email: Cathandon.arts@blueyonder.com



The National Secretary's Report

With 759 members world-wide, our Cunningham fellowship continues to broaden. A warm welcome goes out to our seventeen new members that joined Clan Cunningham during the first quarter of 2005. I also wish to welcome back the twenty-two members who renewed last quarter, for their continued support. Welcome back! Your memberships fund the continuing efforts to preserve, promote and share our Cunningham heritage.

NEW 2005 MEMBERS

John and Helen Warren
 Larry Meyer
 John and Pamela Cunningham
 Craig and Marnae Cunningham
 Christopher and Leslie Bailey
 Joyce Cunningham
 James and Judy Wood
 Robert and Nicole Cunningham
 Louis and Anita Foler
 Phillips Davis
 Joe Cunningham
 Jennifer and Rod Sommer
 Robert Cunningham Sr.

NEW 2005 MEMBERS

Tracy and Barry Dunman-Berger
 Shaun and Kasey Heiller
 Louis and Robin Oertly
 Denise and David Stana

SUSTAINING MEMBERS 2005

Jaina and Jerald Olesen
 Betty Hamner
 Earl and Geri Cunningham
 Barbara MacKenzie
 Vicki and David Jacobs-Pratt
 Robert P. Cunningham
 Judy and George Lehmkuhl
 Chandler Cole
 Brian Cunningham

SUSTAINING MEMBERS 2005

John Hendricks
 Michael Cunningham
 Steven Lubin
 Rollo and Alyce Clark
 John and Doris Cunnyngham
 Frances Powers
 William and Cheryl Cunningham
 Vincent and Edna Walsh
 Lynn and Janet Cunningham
 Robert and Dee Cunningham
 Robert B. Cunningham
 Kenneth and Tracy Powers
 Jack and Kathleen Cunningham

Treasurer's Report as of March 31, 2005

First quarter revenues and expenditures for 2005.

Beginning balance January 1, 2005 **\$ 1,324.82**

Revenue

New Membership Dues	461.05
Renewal - Current Member Dues	396.89
Renewal - Noncurrent Member Dues	25.00
Prepaid Membership Dues	25.00
Lifetime Membership Dues	200.00
Newsletter Advertising	125.00
Merchandise	69.47
Total revenue from 01-JAN-05 to 31-MAR-05	\$ 1,302.41

Expenditures

Subscriptions	17.50
Newsletter Expenditures	170.44
Festival Expenses	250.00
Postage	59.48
Office Supplies	9.23
* Clan Awards	65.70
Total exp. from 01-JAN-05 to 31-MAR-05	\$ 572.35

Ending balance March 31, 2005 **\$ 2,054.88**

Tombstone Donations This Quarter	\$ 0.00
Total Tombstone Donations	\$ 2,847.51
Total Tombstone Expenses	\$(6,298.62)
Total Tombstone Deficit	\$(3,451.11)
Tombstone Loan Amount Forgiven	\$ 2,000.00
Total Tombstone Deficit (Loan Balance)	\$(1,451.11)

* For Brian E. Cunningham's 2004 Clansman of the Year award announced at the Stirling Castle Gathering on November 28, 2004; and for Frances Powers and Alec Cunningham's 2003 Clansman/woman of the Year awards presented at Balgonic Castle on Thanksgiving Day November 27, 2003.

Respectfully submitted by Larry Augsburg, National Treasurer

Ian Stewart-Hargreaves
 Taigh nan Creaganan
 "The house of the little rocks"
 Silversmith

Creaganan Gorm
 Carloway
 Isle of Lewis
 Scotland HS2 9AG

Email: ian@creaganan.com
 Tel: 00 44 (0)1851 643356
 Website: www.creaganan.com

High Commissioner's Message

Greetings Fellow Cunninghams,

As you have seen on the previous pages, there was much to share with our membership who could not join us on our Scottish Clan Cunningham adventure last year. Unfortunately, there was insufficient space on page 8 to describe the Feast of Light and Carols program which was the finale to our second consecutive International Clan Cunningham Gathering. So I shall do so here.

Mneesha Gellman shared her holiday celebrations in a ceremony of prayers and candlelight. Then Geri Cunningham, an ordained minister, spoke about the holiday season, and the importance and blessings of family and friendship. Geri's husband, Earl Cunningham, printed a splendid twenty page program of holiday carols, from which he led our gathering in song. We ended our Clan Cunningham travels together, our tour, and our gathering by joining hands and singing (what could be more apropos than) Auld Lang Syne one final time.

After a good four year run of newsletter publication without a hitch, the streak came to a screeching halt last March when my computer had a complete melt-down - figuratively that is. So infected it was with spyware, viruses and other mysterious issues, it finally refused to even boot-up to the desktop. It took CompUSA the month of April to get it working again which required that the hard drive be wiped clean and everything reloaded from scratch. Needless to say, that is why you have received this issue a month late. With any luck, and the benevolent grace of the Celtic Gods, we will enjoy another four years of uninterrupted newsletters.

The festival season is upon us, and those of us that are hosting a Clan Cunningham hospitality tent at festivals in our area are busy polishing swords, making banners and spiffing up our displays. Valerie Cunningham has organized our Second Annual Kilted Golf Tournament in Denver to be held next weekend. Participation has doubled from last year! She is also planning another Clan Cunningham camping and hiking trip this July. Is there a Cunningham event in your area? What are you waiting for?

2004 Clan Cunningham Gathering at Stirling Castle

Our Gathering festivities kicked off with a grand tour of Stirling Castle inside and out.



Above, in the Great Hall, notice the stained-glass blazon of the 3rd Earl of Glencairn, Cuthbert Cunnyngame! (Top, second from right)

Our banquet included six kinds of canapés;

Scottish Salmon & Smoked Mussels, three vegetables, and Heather Honey Crème Brulée with Vanilla Shortbread!

Thanks to member Gordon Cunningham of Stirling's hospitality, we enjoyed wine with our meal and pleasant conversation.



After dinner, *above*, we retired to the adjoining room to relax while we conducted our informal meeting which began with introductions around the room.

Larry, and Ben Cunningham of SEGC, gave brief speeches followed by an open discussion. Then Larry recognized several members for their dedication and service to Clan Cunningham. Brian E. Cunningham of Bethesda, MD was awarded Clansman of the Year 2004. Valerie and Chris Cunningham were awarded etched crystal medallions of office for their exemplary service in 2004 as Colorado State Commissioners.

Sheryl Cunningham was awarded Clanswoman for 2004 for her years of support and service to CCSA. (*below*)



Fran Powers won the French history quiz prize of Brebis fromage & tartan blanket. (*below*)



Clan Cunningham Communiqué
 Newsletter of CCSA since 1984
 4575 West 111th Avenue
 Westminster, CO 80031-2025