



CLAN CUNNINGHAM

COMMUNIQUE

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VOLUME 1, ISSUE 12, JANUARY 15, 2004 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Clan Cunningham Gathering 2003 at Balgonie Castle

by Larry A. Augsbury, International Newsletter Publisher.



Members of the Clan Cunningham Society of America from the U.S., Scotland and France gathered together with their British cousins from the newly formed Society of the Earl of Glencairn of Cunningham at Balgonie Castle - hosted by

Laird Balgonie, his wife and son, Balgonie the Younger - on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 2003, for the first Clan Cunningham Gathering in well over 200 years to celebrate the ties that bind and unite this ancient Clan of Scots together.

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.

Saint Andrew's Night - Château de Cherveux

The first leg of the Clan Cunningham International tour got off to a bumpy start when High Commissioner, Larry Augsbury, moi, from Colorado, Fran Powers from North Carolina, Dawn Augsbury from Arizona and Cheryl Marshall from Michigan attempted to connect in Chicago for our nonstop flight to Paris. Severe weather on the East Coast delayed Fran's flight and our plane to Paris left without us.

We managed a later flight to London and on to Paris where we arrived without Fran and Cheryl's luggage. After a TGV [High Speed Train] ride to Poitiers connecting to the train to Saint Maixent, we arrived at our stop only to have the train depart just as I was trying to get off, with Fran, Dawn and Cheryl still on board! After much commotion and confusion the train stopped again, this time long enough for us to get ourselves and the luggage we did have, safely off!

CCSA members François Redien and Jim Hutchison met us there and we finally arrived at our destination and the home of François and Marie-Thérèse Redien, the Château de Cherveux, about 11 pm, ten hours later than expected, to a flood-lit fifteenth century castle shrouded in a heavy fog. I thought I could hear the faint pounding of hoofs approaching through the mist as though Robert de Conyngham, Captain of the Scots Guard and King's Bodyguard for French Kings Charles VII and Louis XI, would lead his steed past us as we crossed the stone bridge that spanned the moat and led through the outer wall of the fortifications, past the Guard House and into the courtyard of the castle he built 533 years earlier. At that point, the travel woes disappeared and the surreal mélange of past and present-day Clan Cunningham events began to intertwine and coalesce into an unforgettable series of momentous occasions.



Château de Cherveux, still with moat, built by Robert de Conyngham c. 1470

The next morning we toured the château, its grounds and had an opportunity to briefly visit the town of



Larry and Dawn Augsbury greet Mme Aranda Cotore Luis on a stroll of Cherveux.

Cherveux before a local television reporter arrived to film a piece on the St. Andrew's Night Banquet and Ball which



TV reporter interviewing François Redien and Larry Augsbury which aired that day before the soirée.

was taking place that evening, Friday, November 21st. About fifty reservations were made for the function including such dignitaries as the current Mayor of

Cherveux, Georges Lair; the former Mayor of Cherveux for 12 years was François Redien himself; the former French Ambassador to the U.S., Jeanne Debenest; Academician, Author and Historian of the French Middle Ages Philippe Contamine; the President of "des Maisons Paysannes" of Deux-Sèvres, Madeleine Audebrand; the President of the "société d'assurance Groupama" of Deux-Sèvres, Joseph Godet; Marc Thébault, Municipal Councillor of Niort and Parliamentary Attaché of Senator André Dulait; and the Vice-President of the Conseil Général des Deux-Sèvres and Mayor of Saint-Maixent, Léopold Moreau. Even the French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin and Senator André Dulait were invited, but had to decline due to prior engagements.

In keeping with this enchanting experience was a delightful lunch hosted by CCSA members Jim and Julie Hutchison at their charming home in the French countryside. (below)



Jim Hutchison and Fran Powers

Une vie de château pour le clan Cunningham

Ce week-end, les descendants de la famille Cunningham ont vécu au rythme de leurs ancêtres au château de Cherveux.

Depuis des années, François Redien se passionne pour ceux qui ont vécu dans son château, propriété qu'il occupe avec son épouse Marie-Thérèse. Les armoires de la famille Cunningham, placées à l'entrée, annoncent le début de l'histoire de ce château fort du XV^e siècle. Pour comprendre comment ce lieu magnifique, qui se transforme pour le plus grand bonheur des touristes en chambres ou tables d'hôtes, a été érigé, M. Redien a fait éditer des dépliants.

En 1436, Marguerite d'Écosse épouse Louis XI et, en 1440, Louise Chenin épouse l'Écossais Robert de Cunningham, capitaine d'une des



Les amis écossais de M. Redien lui ont offert un livre où figurent l'histoire du château.

Larry Augsbury presents François Redien with the CCSA Origins book in French.



We lingered for some time enjoying the excellent cuisine, captivating surroundings and relaxing atmosphere until the phone rang alerting us that reporters from two local newspapers were at the castle awaiting François and guests to report on the event to take place that evening at the château. The photos and a portion of the articles are reproduced above and on the preceding page.

The Saint Andrew's Night began with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in the Guard House. Then the guests were piped across the courtyard into the Great Hall and welcomed by François Redien. The Selkirk Grace was delivered by Tony Murdock. The dinner menu consisted of:

- Cockaleekie Soup
- Smoked Scottish Salmon
- Wild Boar filet
- Scottish and French cheeses
- Cranachan dessert

The Robert Burns poem "Lament to James, Earl of Glencairn" was read by Jim Hutchison. There were three toasts proposed. Tony Murdock delivered the toast to Saint Andrew. François Redien gave the toast to the "Auld Alliance" between Scotland and France.



Larry Augsbury (above) proposed the toast to Scotland which was delivered in both English and French as follows:

"Scotland has had a significant impact on both of the great nations of France and America. When over 1/2 of France was under English control during the fifteenth century, following the Scots defeat of the English at Vieil Bauge, Pope Martin V is said to have declared: "The Scots are an antidote to the English!" In the aftermath of a victory during the campaign of Joan of Arc to lead the Dauphin, Charles Valois, to Rheims for his coronation as King of France, she galloped her horse to the Scots and praised them with her famous line: 'You Scots make good war!' Scotland's influence on America's struggle for independence and the formation of the free government of the United States cannot be overemphasized. Well over 1/3 of the signers of the American Declaration of Independence were of Scottish descent. George Washington, Father of the United States, Commander-in-Chief of the Colonial Forces, first President of the United States of America, whose ancestry has been traced back to Scottish King Malcolm II, chose as his first cabinet, Edmund Randolph as Attorney General, Henry Knox as Secretary of War, Alexander Hamilton as Secretary of Treasury and Thomas Jefferson as Secretary of State, all of Scottish descent. Thomas Jefferson, third President of the USA, American Minister to France, a descendant of a sister of King Robert I of Scotland, was the author of the American Declaration of Independence, which bears remarkable similarities, in wording and aspirations, to a document written 456 years earlier, the Declaration of Arbroath of Scotland. Ladies and Gentlemen, charge your glasses and be upstanding. To Scotland."



From left Julie Hutchison, Larry Augsbury, François Redien and Jeanne Debenest.

An evening of pleasant conversation in both French and English accompanied by music and dancing followed which went well into the wee hours.

The next morning the four of us were on our way to Paris for a day. We were pleased to find our lost luggage had arrived at our hotel near Notre Dame. The bad news was we had no room, due to their overbooking, the good news was that we received a considerable upgrade into two magnificent rooms at a hotel near the Arc de Triumph, which was formerly the residence of the personal physician of Napoleon Bonaparte! There is almost always a silver lining!



After an afternoon and evening of seeing the sights and taking in the ambience of one of the most beautiful cities on earth, we reluctantly left our rooms the next morning for the train ride under the English Channel, through the Chunnel, to London and onward to Edinburgh.

John Cunningham, 15th Earl of Glencairn, Memorial Dedication Ceremony

On Tuesday, November 25, 2003 the Clan Cunningham Society of America (CCSA) dedicated the granite memorial plaque that they designed, commissioned and had erected at his resting place to honor the memory of the last Clan Cunningham Chief and 15th Earl of Glencairn, John Cunningham, who was interred at St. Cuthbert's Churchyard below Edinburgh Castle and adjacent to Princess Gardens in Edinburgh, Scotland on September 29, 1796. His original tombstone was inexplicably missing from the wall behind his grave and CCSA has now restored the dignity and honor of our last Clan Chief's grave and established a focal point from which Clan Cunningham can rise and reclaim its rightful place among the contemporary clans of the twenty-first century.

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St Cuthbert's Parish Church, center, from Edinburgh Castle by Earl Cunningham.

Memorial Artist and Sculptor, Roger Seal of Denver, CO, carved the Glencairn Arms, which was commissioned from the Lord Lyon King of Arms, specifically for this monument

At right, High Commissioner of CCSA Larry Augsbury visits Roger Seals studio during the memorial's creation and leaves his mark



upon the Glencairn Arms carving whose dedication ceremony began at 10:30 AM.

The proceedings of the Memorial Dedication Ceremony presented by CCSA went as follows:

PIPER'S LAMENT 'Mist Covered Mountains of Home' by Piper Keith Easdale.

OPENING COMMENT AND INTRODUCTIONS by **MODERATOR**, Larry Augsbury, High Commissioner, Clan Cunningham Society of America

"MALCOLM'S RIDE" A ballad of the origins of the motto and shake-fork charge on the Glencairn Arms of Clan Cunningham, performed by internationally renowned Celtic group **CALASAIG**: Keith Johnston, Kirsten Easdale, Keith Easdale, Celine Donoghue and Andy Webster.



"... the best, young multi instrumental band in Scotland..." The List
"... Calasaig establishes a place as an excellent interpreter of Scottish music..." Dirty Linen

HONORED GUEST'S ADDRESS, Lord Lyon King of Arms of Scotland, Right Honourable Robin Blair, LVO, WS:



"Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are here today on an important day for Clan Cunningham. The clan has been without a leader since the death of the fourteenth Earl of Glencairn in 1796. The clan of course is led by its present High Commissioner, but that is not the same as having a chief.

Of course there are a large number of other clans who do not have a chief at present. Any such clan has the disadvantage of not having a clear leader about whom the members of the clan can rally. The Cunninghams are better placed than many in having a clan society that is active and which serves to maintain the clan's history, memories, and fellowship.

I wish you well at your International Gathering. What you are doing today is creating in Scotland a physical focus at the grave of the last clan chief. That will be a valuable point of reference for the future. It was for these reasons that I welcomed the initiative which Mr. Augsbury proposed when he wrote to me in August of last year, asking for my views on the possibility of having this memorial created which is being dedicated today. I am very pleased indeed that this initiative has come to fruition.



Chief George MacMillan & Lord Lyon before Memorial Dedication Ceremony

The title Earl of Glencairn is very ancient, dating from 1488, but we know very little about John Cunningham, the fourteenth Earl. We know that he was born on the 17th of May, 1750. As a young man he enjoyed the social life of an officer of the 14th Regiment of Dragoons. There is no record that he saw active service. He then took holy orders in the Church of



Chief George MacMillan, Lord Lyon & Ben Cunningham before Dedication Ceremony

England, but again there is no record of his having taken up a position within a parish of the Church of England. I was in contact recently with a repository of historical information about all ordained ministers in the Church of England, but they were unable to tell me of any parish where the Reverend Cunningham had served.

He was married to Isabella Erskine, daughter of the Earl of Buchan. He died in Coates in West Edinburgh, which had been the Glencairn home for many years on the 24th of September, 1796. He and his wife had no children.

John Cunningham was somewhat eccentric and had a mind full of fantasies. He is said to have been the author of a drama in twenty-five acts which was performed in Aberdeen. The play opens with Adam and Eve stark naked. So, it must have been something to remember. After his death, no relative was found to inherit the Earldom and the chiefship of the clan.

Despite the scarcity of our knowledge about him, it is good that this memorial has been created as a permanent reminder of the life of this gentleman and his importance to clan Cunningham. I am most grateful to you for inviting me to make these remarks and for being here on this important occasion."

Transcribed by Alec & Bill Cunningham



Clan Chief George MacMillan of MacMillan and Knap of Finlaystone (former seat of Clan Cunningham)

"I think my brief is to talk about the Cunninghams and Finlaystone, which is where I live. It is a house now, but it was once a castle on the banks of the Clyde.

The Cunningham connection with Finlaystone is of course in some way peripheral to the grand history of the Cunningham clan. It was only one of many houses they owned and occupied at various



Chief George MacMillan captivates Sheryl, Val and Chris Cunningham with tales of Finlaystone on their visit Sunday, November 30, 2003.

times. I think the normal plan was to go around to your various houses eating up the rent. Finlaystone was regarded as one of the main ones.

I regret to tell you the Cunninghams were what we might call opportunists. In the west of Scotland the word "Chancellor" is often used for people who see an opportunity and take advantage of it. The two ways they did this was first by marriage, and the other one of course was by force of arms. I think on the whole they were more successful with their marriages, but they did occasionally venture into Scottish history at crucial moments and were extremely important in their field.

Who am I to talk about Chancellors because my father was a soldier and he gained Finlaystone by marriage, so I am very much in the mission of the Cunningham family. The first Cunningham of Finlaystone was William, who got it in 1404 from the Danzielstone or Danielstoun family, who must have owned vast tracks of Scotland, and who in fact had two castles, almost adjacent. One was called Finlaystone and the other was called "Nether Finlaystone," which is only about four miles away and is still more or less in its original form. So, when you come over to our side of the world, if you would like to go down to Nether Finlaystone, which is now called Newark castle, you will see what Finlaystone might have been like in the 15th Century.

Jane and I were in Machu Picchu not very long ago and we were very surprised to find that the great stones of Machu Picchu were only put in place about the same time Finlaystone and Nether Finlaystone were being built. There is sort of an historical perspective there to be born in mind.

I will not go through all the Earls because there are far too many of them, but one is quite worth touching on. We who live in Finlaystone always regard James, the patron of Burns as the Fourteenth Earl and John as the Fifteenth, and we recognize there is quite a bit of blather about all that. I think it happened very early on because rather sadly the first Earl, Alexander, was killed very soon after he was created Earl at the battle of Sauchieburn. Unfortunately, he was on the losing side. He had been badly wounded. [The battle was between James III and James IV of Scotland, and pitted] Father against son, sorry to say. The father lost. The son became James IV and deprived Alexander's son of his title, the Earl of Glencairn. I think it was from this that the numbering became so disjointed.

But anyhow, terribly more interesting than the numbers are the characters themselves. On the whole, it is the odd numbered Earls that seem to feature most prominently. The Fifth Earl I suppose you could call him the patron of John Knox. In 1556 John Knox visited Finlaystone and held the first formal communion in Western Scotland. That was a pretty bold thing to do at the time for the times were very tumultuous. One of Knox's predecessors had been slaughtered. I think the Earl took rather good care to get a few other Earls involved. Certainly one was of close relation by marriage, the Earl of Arran.

Just an illustration of how precarious things were, it was not very long before this that the Earl's father had been at odds with the Earl of Arran, and it sort of surprised everybody that Alexander actually married the Earl of Arran's daughter. The marriage was one example of many where a marriage was the cement joining the grand families of Scotland together. The Earls through marriage acquired enormous parcels of land. That was an example of how quickly they could change their allegiance, from hatred to marriage, and sometimes the other way around, I am sad to say.

Another good example of that was perhaps the most favorable of all, the Seventh Earl of Glencairn. He took part in a rather peculiar skirmish in Kilbarchan which is a small village just to the south of Finlaystone, and it in fact took place at the parish church. It was a rift involving the property of a Finlaystone neighbor, Mr. Porterfield. The Porterfields were a powerful lowland clan, and unfortunately for the Cunninghams, Mr. Porterfield failed to pay his rent. This I regret to say resulted in a skirmish, beginning in the churchyard of Kilbarchan parish church just after Sunday worship. Sadly, the Cunninghams had to run for it, about three miles, mainly up hill to Finlaystone. They managed to get home and barricade themselves in. But they were never terribly fond of the Porterfields and smarted over this skirmish and so they ransacked the Porterfield's stronghold Duchal House. It was not too long after that, so the story goes, that the same James was caught in a very bad storm not very far from Duchal and knocked at the door asking for refuge from the storm, which the Porterfield very generously gave him. So, you just never really knew where you were with anyone at all at any time.

A final story about James is rather ironic in a way because if you walk around Edinburgh, you will find opposite one another the Glencairn pursuivant and the Eglinton pursuivant (coat of arms).

The Cunninghams were the Earls of Glencairn and the Montgomeries were the Earls of Eglinton in Ayrshire. They had a rather long running dispute, a rather curious one that may appeal to the Lord Lyon. He probably knows about this anyway. A small landed Earl had a right to dispense justice in that area of Scotland. The Cunninghams it seemed were prepared to stop at

nothing to gain this privilege. They actually murdered one of the Earls of Eglinton, Fat Hugh he was called. I am sure the fat part was a bit of spin to show how unworthy he was to sit on the bench.

Anyhow, he was murdered. James originally disclaimed any knowledge of the conspiracy, but there is no smoke without fire, as they say. So there was conflagration and marriage, and this went on through the next two or three centuries.

The 9th Earl is a very crucial one. He may well figure as the eighth in your history. He had a most difficult time because he was living during the time of the English Civil War. Things were complicated enough in England, but in Scotland, they were almost impossible because the church was involved in it. The Glencairns, as you may have realized by now were very generally speaking on the side of the Presbyterians, with John Knox and his side. The king, unfortunately, was on the rather High Anglican side.

Added to that, the ninth Earl wanted to support the church, but he also wanted to support the king because he thought it might suit him quite well. Besides that, the Earl of Argyll, whom everyone hated, decided to change sides halfway through, so everyone else had to change sides too. So, it was quite impossible to sort out who was on which side. The upshot of it was that the 9th Earl got himself locked up in Edinburgh Castle right at the end of the Times of Trouble and was in fact due for an untimely death when the bell rang and Charles the II was restored to the throne and out he (9th Earl) popped and became Lord High Chancellor of Scotland.

That was not quite the end of the story because he was then given the job of ousting Presbyterians, which he did not find very tasteful. It is said on his deathbed, after a slightly dubious sexual life, he offered to let some Presbyterians in to see him off to the next life, which prompted someone to say "a Scotsman, whatever he is during most of his life, is usually discovered to be a Presbyterian in the end." He found himself buried in St. Giles Cathedral, just up the hill there. Actually, forgive me if you will, under the car park outside.

May I just finish by thanking the opportunistic Cunninghams for their gracious hospitality, from one opportunist to another. Thank you very much."

Transcribed by Alec & Bill Cunningham

**Speaker, Edinburgh City Councillor,
Bill Cunningham, Holyrood Ward.**



MODERATOR'S ADDRESS, High Commissioner, Larry Augsbury, Clan Cunningham Society of America:

"We are here to dedicate a monument to, and to honor the memory of, John Cunningham, 14th Earl of Glencairn. Following the death of his brother James, without issue, on January 30, 1791, John became the 15th Cunningham and last of his direct line to bear that noble title. John Cunningham continued the family tradition of loyalty to King and country with military service as an officer in the 14th Dragoons.



After leaving the Army, he took Holy Orders in the Church of England. In 1785 he married Lady Isabella Erskine, the second daughter of Henry David, 10th Earl of Buchan. John was the Earl of Glencairn for only 5 years when he too died without issue on the 24th of September, 1796. Since then the Earldom of Glencairn and the Chiefship of Clan Cunningham have been dormant; but not forgotten.

John was the last of the direct line of noble Cunninghams who served their Kings with unwavering loyalty, and their country with honor and distinction. As far back as the 12th century, chroniclers site Stephen de Cunningham as one of the 15 hostages who gave himself for the liberation of the Scottish King, William the Lion, in 1174. Hervey de Cunningham distinguished himself as a brave warrior at the Battle of Largs in 1263 over the forces of Hacon, King of Norway, which drove the Norwegians from Scotland and the Western Isles for good.

Sir Robert Cunningham of Kilmaurs, eighth descendant of Warneald and ninth in this line, fought in King Robert the Bruce's own division at the Battle of Bannockburn to help win Scottish Independence in 1314. His great grandson, also Sir Robert of Kilmaurs, gave himself as hostage for King James I, who spent the first 18 years of his reign as a prisoner of the English court. James I at his coronation knighted Sir Robert of Kilmaurs on May 21, 1424.

The 13th in this line, Sir Alexander Cunningham was created a Lord of Parliament with the title of Lord Cunningshame of Kilmaurs in 1450 by King James II. Sir Alexander, Lord Kilmaurs continued the centuries old family tradition of loyalty to the Scottish monarch and the bravery of a Knight. As

a recognized Clan Chief, he moved the Cunningham seat to Finlaystone. Sir Alexander remained loyal to the successor King, James III, and brought his forces to aid and defend the King, against the rebellious nobles, at Blackness. Following this confrontation, Lord Kilmaurs was advanced to the rank and title of Earl of Glencairn by royal charter in 1488. Shortly thereafter, at the Battle of Sauchieburn, against these same rebel nobles, which included the King's son and heir to the Scottish throne, Alexander, 1st Earl of Glencairn, was killed, along with King James III.

Cuthbert Cunningham not only lost his Grandfather at Sauchieburn, but also the Earldom. However, as a brave Man-at-Arms, he made his services available to the succeeding monarch, King James IV; and in an ironic twist of fate, at the King's wedding to Margaret Tudor in August 1503, James IV effectively reversed the impact on the Cunninghams of his "Act Recissory" of 15 years earlier, by bestowing upon Cuthbert, and restoring to this Cunningham line once again, the Earldom of Glencairn.

Like his grandfather Alexander, Cuthbert, 2nd Earl of Glencairn and the Cunningham forces fought with their King, this time with James IV, in the King's own division, at the disastrous Battle of Flodden in 1513.

Sir William, the 3rd Earl of Glencairn was commissioned as Lord High Treasurer of Scotland in 1526. He fought in the Battle of Solway Moss in 1542 after which he was imprisoned by the English Duke of Norfolk.

Alexander, the 4th Earl, was both a vigorous religious and military leader who led a force of 2,500 men on a forced march to Perth to prevent the troops of Mary of Guise from laying siege to the city, saving the inhabitants from a horrible fate. He carried the Sword of State at the coronation of James VI, and served on the council of 12, appointed to carry on the government for the infant King.

James, the 6th Earl of Glencairn, was Privy Councillor to King James VI.

William, the 8th Earl was possessed of a dynamic vigor and personality. He was appointed Privy Counsellor and Commissioner of the Treasury in 1641; and Lord Justice-General in 1646. He was also a strong military leader, sent to Ireland by King Charles I to protect the Ulster colonists during the uprising of 1641; fought at the battle of Killybegs, participated in the "Engagement", which was an attempt to free Charles I from Cromwell, and at the battle of Preston in 1648. With Scotland in Cromwell's control, and Charles II without a kingdom, Charles II appointed William the 8th Earl of Glencairn, General and

Commander in Chief of all his majesty's forces he could muster, to harass the army of Cromwell's commander in Scotland, General Monk. In 1654, at a banquet with General Middleton at Dornoch in Sutherland, one of Middleton's lieutenants, Sir George Munro, insulted Glencairn's troops referring to them as "nothing but thieves and robbers." Later that evening a duel was arranged for the next morning to settle the matter. After pistols were discharged to no effect, broadswords were drawn on horseback, whereupon Sir George received a stroke on the bridle hand and cried out with hope that his lordship would allow him to continue on foot. Glencairn replied "You base liar, I will show you that I can match you either on foot or on horseback." They took to foot where Glencairn delivered a slash to Munro's brow above his eyes causing a bloody wound, and was preparing to run him through when Glencairn's servant and second, John White saved Sir George by forcing up the Earl's sword and saying "You have had enough of him, my lord, you have got the better of him." Thereafter, Glencairn and his army marched southward. By 1655, Glencairn found himself imprisoned in Edinburgh Castle awaiting execution by the English when he was saved by the restoration of the monarchy. King Charles II rewarded Glencairn for his service and loyalty by appointing him Privy Councillor, High Sheriff of Ayr, and finally the ultimate honor on January 19, 1661 as Lord High Chancellor of Scotland for life. He died in 1664 and was buried at St. Giles Cathedral on July 28th after an impressive ceremony presided over by the Archbishop of Glasgow, with all of the nobility, then in Edinburgh, in attendance.

John, the 10th Earl of Glencairn, was appointed Privy Councillor to King William in 1689. Queen Anne, the next Scottish sovereign, appointed him Captain and Governor of Dumbarton Castle.

William, the 11th Earl, like his father before him was also a Privy Councillor, to the next monarch, Queen Anne, as well as Captain and Governor of Dumbarton Castle who held the rank of Colonel in the service of the Crown.

William, the 12th Earl of Glencairn, was also Captain and Governor of Dumbarton Castle and rose to the rank of Major-General in 1770.

James, the 13th Earl, was a Captain in the West Fencible Regiment and a Representative Peer of Scotland and the patron and benefactor of Robert Burns. James died January 30, 1791.

When the 1793 edition of *Burns's Poems* was published, the bard presented John, the 14th Earl of Glencairn, with a copy. It undoubtedly contained the moving poem Lament to James, Earl of Glencairn; which will be read for you now in its entirety by Mr. James Hutchison. The words are in the program, if you would like to follow along."

RECITATION OF ROBERT BURNS POEM, "LAMENT FOR JAMES, EARL OF GLENCAIRN,"
Read by James Hutchison. (Below)



PROCESSION TO GRAVESITE AND MEMORIAL TO JOHN, EARL OF GLENCAIRN. (Below)



Reverend TC Cuthell (left) and piper Keith Easdale leading processional to the tune "March of the Cunninghams" (Above)

Procession piped to the tune 'March of the Cunninghams' written, piped and performed for the first time ever by Keith Easdale specifically for this occasion of the processional walk to the graveside and memorial of John, Earl of Glencairn and Clan Cunningham Chief.

PIPER'S LAMENT 'Sleep Dearie Sleep' by Piper Keith Easdale (Below)



Above, Fran Powers, HC, Dawn Augsbury, Reverend Cuthell performs the blessing, Lord Lyon Robin Blair and Edinburgh City Councillor Bill Cunningham.



Above, Earl Cunningham. Left, Lord Lyon Robin Blair.



BLESSING OF MEMORIAL by Reverend T. C. Cuthell of St. Cuthbert's Parish Church. (Top)

The City of Edinburgh is hosting a civic reception at Usher Hall following the memorial dedication ceremony with music performed by Calasaig. Below L to R, Celine Donoghue, Keith Johnston, Kirsten Easdale, Andy Webster and Keith Easdale of Calasaig.



Ben Cunningham, Lord Lyon & Larry Augsbury



Lyon, Keith Johnston, Kirsten and Larry



Left to Right, Jim Cunningham, Julie Hutchison, Lord Lyon, Larry Augsbury, Sheryl Cunningham, Chris & Val Cunningham

Glen Cunningham Gathering 2003 at Balgonie Castle, St Andrews & Edinburgh

Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 2003 marked the first contemporary Clan Cunningham Gathering in over 250 years according to William Cunningham of Dunfermline.

Upon our arrival via bus from our hotel in Glenrothes, we traversed a spacious inner courtyard where we were greeted by Laird Balgonie. *(Below)*



We were escorted inside the castle to a barrel vaulted room where we were given a brief castle history.

Then it was off to the Great Hall where our feast was served.

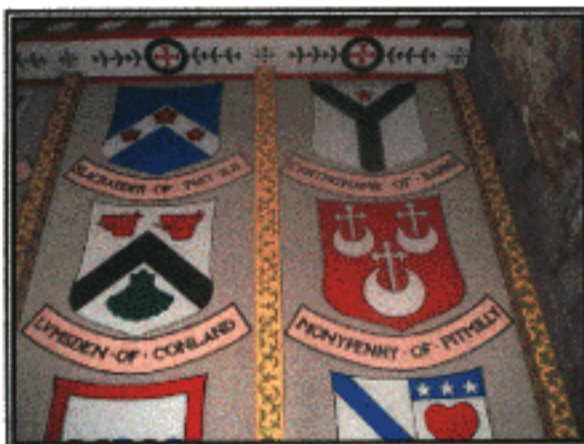
The first Clan Gathering in over two centuries was well represented

by eighteen clan members from the Clan Cunningham Society of America hailing from the USA, France and Scotland along with thirteen members from the newly formed Society of the Earl of Glencairn of Cunningham (SEGC) of Great Britain whose preceptor, Ben Cunningham, organized this Gathering.



Feast in Great Hall at Balgonie Castle.

We were given a tour of the castle after our Thanksgiving Day feast and were delighted to find on the ceiling of the quarters upstairs, the Cunningham shield and shake-fork charge painted there. *(Top of next column)*



I'm sorry to say that we had to deal with a minor rebellion prior to our Clan Meeting slated to take place after an outdoor break in the courtyard. CCSA member Jim Hutchison, a Scot who resides in France, decided that he did not want to read the Robert Burns poem "Lament to James, Earl of Glencairn" again. He had read it at the CCSA Memorial Dedication Ceremony for the 15th Earl of Glencairn's monument two days earlier at St. Cuthbert's below Edinburgh Castle and again six days earlier at the St. Andrews Night banquet and ball at the Château de Cherveux, which was built by Robert de Conyngham in 1470, which is the residence of CCSA members François and Marie-Thérèse Redien. Since there was a remedy very close at hand, a short time in the Balgonie stocks cured Jim of his reluctance and as the following graphics indicate, the reading of the poem went off after the meeting as scheduled.



The clan meeting in the chapel included the presentation of awards by both SEGC and CCSA. A basket-hilt sword was given to Frances Powers for first place in the contest on Scottish history. Another sword went to Daniel and Christine Cunningham and Alva Shoemaker. A sword was also presented to Laird Balgonie. The Preceptor's gift was presented to Larry Augsbury for his service to Clan Cunningham.



Jim reads "Lament to James, Earl of Glencairn"



Clan Meeting in Chapel



Frances Powers with 1st prize

Last Earl of Glencairn and Clan Cunningham Chief, John Cunningham Memorial Tombstone Replacement Fund Donation

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Amount: _____

Send checks to: CCSA, 4575 West 111 Avenue, Westminster, CO 80031
 Donations are also accepted by credit card through PayPal on our web sites.
 A receipt will be provided for donations over \$250 for charitable contribution income tax deduction purposes or upon request.

Following the awards, the SEGC Preceptor's Address focused on the theme of need for 2004. The CCSA High Commissioner's Address touched on the past, present and future of Clan Cunningham and CCSA, and awarded our Society's Clansman and Clanswoman of the year award. That address follows:



"Greetings Cunningham Clansmen, and Clanswomen, and distinguished guests. I am Larry Augsburg, the High Commissioner of the Clan Cunningham Society of America, also referred to by the acronym CCSA. We were formed in 1984 to preserve, promote and share our Cunningham heritage with our fellow Americans and the world. From the beginning, we have sought to share our heritage with our members, and the general public, both at home and abroad. We have collaborated with Scots to write two books. The first book sought to compile and condense all the Cunningham history available to us from many sources into one comprehensive and concise text from which interested readers could catch a glimpse of the origins, the heritage and the traditions of the noble Scottish Cunningham family and its kith and kin. The second book is a travel guide on the known historical Clan Cunningham sites in Scotland and Ireland. I say known, because the more we communicate and search, the more that is discovered and revealed.

In fact, the next edition of our travel book will include the addition of historical sites in France. You see, last January we were not even aware of the existence of the Château de Cherveux; of Robert de Conyngham, nor the role he played in the Auld Alliance between Scotland and France, nor his role as a Captain of the Scots Guard for French King Charles VII, who was several years earlier the Dauphin who was led to his coronation by Joan of Arc; nor were we aware that Robert de Conyngham was Captain of the King's Bodyguard for French King Louis XI, Charles VII's successor. Indeed, so highly esteemed was the Cunningham name, that on April 15, 1456, King James II of Scotland wrote a letter on behalf of Robert de Conyngham to the French King, Charles VII. We have added a new chapter to the third edition of our Clan Cunningham Origins, Heritage and Traditions book to accommodate the wealth of new information sent to us by our first French members, François and Marie-Thérèse Redien, who are here with us today, the owners and residents of the Château de Cherveux, which was built by Robert de Conyngham and his son Joachim, 533 years ago, in 1470. In fact, just last week, Clan Cunningham Society of America presented the Rediens with a hard-back, leather-bound, foil-

stamped special third edition of our Origins book, translated into French, to share our Cunningham roots with our French friends and our allies of the past and the present.

During the past three decades, CCSA has been a repository for the data our officers have researched and collected, and the information our members have submitted. We have published a newsletter from the beginning, to share that information with our members; and since the new millennium, we have been able to reach even more Cunninghams through our web sites. For example, we received an email last July, from Mr. Mark Usher after having read about our Memorial Dedication Ceremony on the internet. He noted that the City of Edinburgh was hosting a Civic Reception at Usher Hall for the Cunninghams, following the dedication. He was kind enough to reveal to us another Cunningham connection about which we were unfamiliar. It seems that Usher Hall was dedicated to the City of Edinburgh by Andrew Usher, who's daughter Elizabeth, married a Cunningham named St. Clair Cunningham in 1885. St. Clair Cunningham was the son of Jane MacLachlan and James Cuthbertson Cunningham, a chemical manure manufacturer of Edinburgh. So... if something I say doesn't seem to pass the sniff test... Well...perhaps it runs in the family!

CCSA has strived to preserve the memory of Clan Cunningham from its very inception. Shortly after forming, we presented the owners and residents of Finlaystone with a plaque of the Glencairn Arms.

This plaque was hanging on the wall above the fireplace in a room at Finlaystone when I visited the estate in May of 2000. Two days ago, we dedicated the granite tombstone upon which we had carved the Glencairn Arms and had placed at St Cuthbert's Churchyard to restore the honor and dignity of the unmarked resting place of the last Clan Cunningham Chief and 15th Earl of Glencairn, John Cunningham. We do this work, because the legacy of the noble line of Cunninghams is worthy of preserving. It reminds us of the virtues of loyalty, courage, prudence, constancy and others that served our ancestors well as leaders and advisors to the monarchs of Scotland for centuries. Last Tuesday at John Cunningham, the 15th Earl of Glencairn's memorial dedication ceremony, you heard me mention very briefly some of the distinguished Cunninghams of the noble line. There I referred to John as the 14th Earl of Glencairn, out of deference and respect for the Lord Lyon King of Arms whose office recognizes him as such. But many other historians, genealogists and institutions refer to him as the 15th Earl, as does Chief George MacMillan. I think a brief explanation is fitting at this time. The discrepancy in the numbering of the Earls goes back to Sir Alexander, Lord Cunningham of Kilmaurs, the 1st Earl of Glencairn, who died at the Battle of Sauchieburn, merely 14 days after receiving the title and rank of Earl, which automatically devolves to his heir, and so on in perpetuity. King James III, who bestowed these honors on Sir Alexander, was also killed there. And, among the rebellious nobles on the winning side of that battle, was the slain King's son, the future King James IV, who later proclaimed at Scone that all dignities granted by his father after

February 2, 1487 were annulled, which was later ratified by Parliament in October 1488, known as the "Act Recissory". The problem is that Sir Alexander was advanced to the dignity of the 1st Earl after the stipulated February 2, 1487 date. Nevertheless, his title was never recognized as annulled. His son Robert, however, had his inherited title annulled, even though he had held it for 127 day, far longer than the 15 days his father Sir Alexander had held it. The irony is that Robert's son, Cuthbert Cunningham, like his grandfather Sir Alexander the 1st Earl, was a valiant warrior who made his services available to King James IV, who despite annulling Cuthbert's father's title himself, reinstated it upon Cuthbert, 15 years later at his wedding ceremony to the daughter of the English King Henry VII. Because of the contradictions of these events, coupled with the fact that the 1st Earl's title was never annulled, even though it fell within the period of the annulment, a great many academics, books, and institutions, ignore the Act Recissory and recognize Robert as the 2nd Earl and so on. CCSA had written the previous Lord Lyon, Sir Malcolm Innes of Edingight about this matter. His response, was that the matter may be addressed in the future, at which time when the rightful claimant to the Earldom came forth and was determined as such. There the matter rests.

We have worked very closely with the current Lord Lyon, Robin Blair, throughout our memorial restoration project, commissioning from his office the certified renderings of the Glencairn Arms, and the Cunningham Strap-and-Buckle Crest Badge, whose images adorn our Chief's gravesite. We also solicited the Lyons advise and permission on our last Earl's epitaph and monument design. Ultimately, we hope to someday witness, and play a part if necessary, in the restoration of the rightful Chief of Clan Cunningham.

I have touched briefly on some topics resulting from our past history, and now, I would like to attend to some CCSA business stemming from more current events. As an all volunteer organization, it is an ongoing challenge to meet the demands of managing our active society, in a timely and responsive manner, with the level of service and quality that our members deserve, and to meet the standard of excellence which is the legacy left to us by the centuries of exemplary service to God, country, and kin, by our dignified ancestors, the Earls of Glencairn, and their forefathers before them. This challenge is met by dedicated Cunninghams who invest their invaluable time to discover their rich heritage and share it with their extended Cunningham family world-wide. Unfortunately, CCSA can not grant lands, or bestow titles of great power and wealth upon those whose loyalty and commitment serve our Clan and our society with distinction. But as High Commissioner of the Clan Cunningham Society of America, I shall publicly recognize two members here today, at our International Clan Cunningham Gathering at Balgonie Castle as Clansman and Clanswoman of the Year 2003.

For the past two years, our Clanswoman of the Year has devoted her time and efforts as the co-host of one of the foremost and prestigious Scottish Festivals and Highland Games in America at Grandfather Mountain in North Carolina. She has also co-hosted the Foothills Highland Games

in Hendersonville, North Carolina and volunteered to help host others, like the renowned Stone Mountain Games in Georgia. She has contributed to our quarterly newsletter, the Cunningham Communiqué and has designed, funded and created a variety of beautiful banners and standards for Clan Cunningham as well as assisted with our fund-raising efforts. Her munificent donation to the Earls tombstone fund also helped bring that monument from an idea, to a strategic plan objective of CCSA's board of directors, to its final destination at the grave of our last Chief, the right honourable and right reverend John Cunningham, Earl of Glencairn. Frances Powers, would you please come and receive this token of our Society's appreciation for your devoted service to Clan Cunningham?

All organizations face difficult choices and must cope with change in order to grow, prosper and continue to deliver the services for which it was created. Clan Cunningham Society of America is an all volunteer, non-profit institution formed for the purpose to discover, promote and share our history and traditions in order to educate, inform and increase our membership so that we may encourage and inspire participation in, enhancement of, and most importantly, enjoyment of our common heritage for present and future generations. In April of 2002, following inactivity and management setbacks, CCSA underwent a reorganization to reestablish our commitment and service to our society and its members. At that pivotal time, our Clansman of the Year for 2003 answered the call and was appointed the Southern Regional Commissioner and took a seat on our Board of Directors. He has hosted numerous Clan Cunningham Hospitality Tents at many Scottish festivals in the southern United States for the past two years. He has researched and written many articles which have been published in our quarterly newsletter. He volunteered to take the lead on developing and launching our new web site on the internet, which has been a smashing success. He continues to lead the effort in implementing new features there, that will enable our members to access our genealogical database, among other innovations. William Alexander Cunningham V, known to us as Alec, would you please come and receive this token of our Society's appreciation for your loyalty, commitment, and dedicated service to Clan Cunningham?

Those mugs have etched upon them, their names, their award, and the Lord Lyon commissioned and certified rendering of the Clan Cunningham Strap-and-Buckle Crest Badge, the same image as that at the Earl's monument which was etched by the same artist, R. Adrian Dudley who did the engraving on John Cunningham's memorial and the Clansmen Acknowledgement Plaque.

There is much more for us to do on behalf of Clan Cunningham. Whatever we accomplish, at whatever pace it is achieved, depends on all of you. Just a few years ago, I decided to volunteer some of my time to Clan Cunningham. I was astonished by how much I enjoyed my involvement, which started out slowly and steadily grew. Early on, I thought I was too busy to volunteer. But as I began to interact within our society, within our Cunningham Clan, and within

the Scottish Community at large, many lasting friendships have developed. As I continue to learn about our heritage, and continue to meet fascinating people from around the world, I realize that Clan Cunningham is so much more than just an amusing distraction, a pastime, or a hobby. It is my extended family. As such, I look forward with pleasant anticipation to future collaboration with the Society of the Earl of Glencairn of Cunningham, who have done a brilliant job of organizing this Gathering. I'd like to thank François and Marie-Thérèse Redien for the marvelous St Andrew Soirée at the Château de Cherveux, and Jim and Julie Hutchison for their generous hospitality and participation. I look forward with eager anticipation to a future of interacting with the members of our global and united Cunningham family, and dare I hope, under the direction of our next rightful and recognized Clan Chief. And, I am especially delighted to share the pleasure of the company of all of you here at Balgonie Castle for this International Clan Cunningham Gathering 2003. Thank You."

The evening's Balgonie festivities concluded in the Great Hall with entertainment provided by the Piper Leslie MacKinlay, Magician Steve Lindsay and Highland Dancers Claire and Melonie Reekie.



François Redien, Julie Hutchison and Marie Thérèse Redien are part of Steve Lindsay's magic tricks (above) François is singled-out by Steve Lindsay (below)



Friday the group spent the day in Edinburgh at the Castle, a woolen mill, other points of interest and enjoyed lunch and dinner, which included haggis at MacGregors, together on the Royal Mile.

Saturday in St Andrews was fine Scottish umbrella weather, rain..., and lots of it!



Watch out! That looks slippery... too late!



The North Sea is n,n,nippy in November!

After Larry's dip at low tide, we visited the aquarium next to St Andrews Golf Club, then strolled to the castle ruins on the shore. Some of the group even braved the tower.



Chris and Val Cunningham, St Andrews

St Andrews concluded the Gathering events which by all accounts exceeded all expectations. Plans are already in the works for next year!



Bill C'ham, Alec C'ham & Alva Shoemaker



Carl Bloomgren, HC & Twyla Dell



Earl & Geri Cunningham

The National Secretary's Report

A warm welcome to our ten new members that joined Clan Cunningham during the last quarter. I also wish to welcome back the sixty-two members who renewed last quarter, for their continued support. Welcome back! Your memberships breathes life into our Cunningham Society.

NEW 2003 MEMBERS

Edward Neugaard
La Nell Shores
Thomas Noe III
Anne and Gary Killcoyne
Barbara-Jo Curtis
Pierre Dinand-Maynier
Sue and Alton Wethli
Helen Kirkley
Amanda Pugh
John Cunningham Jr.

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Deborah Green
Sandra Cunningham, PhD
Keith Cunningham
Jean Cunningham

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

William E. Cunningham
Dale MacMahill
Corby and Jane Christensen
Judith Clawson
Dr. Edgar Cunningham
James Olsen
Sheryl Cunningham
Ken and Carolyn Wills
Barbara MacKenzie

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Dennis and Barbara Leishman
Mary McKee
Charles and Florence Cunningham
Ronald Cunningham
Lynn and Janet Cunningham
Fay and Geraldine Cunningham
James R. Cunningham
Brandon and Tiffany Smith
James D. Cunningham
Brian E. Cunningham
Joyce Gellenbeck
Mary Ford
Robert P. Cunningham
Evelyn Wittick
James and Janice Augsburg
William and Norma Wallace
Jack and Gloria Hagen
Elizabeth Hurd
Dr. Deborah Crumbaker
Clatie and Norma Cunningham
William Alexander Cunningham IV
Blaine Standiford
Frances Powers
Larry Augsburg
Charlotte Wiedman
Rollo and Alyce Clark

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

James C. Cunningham
Evelyn Johnson
John Cunyngham
Vern and Addie Cunningham
Harold and Diann Eason
Keith E. Cunningham
Jeannette Jones
Rose and Gerald Trigg
Betty Hamner
Susan Heaton
Nik and Brad Cunningham
Thomas and Jewel Wellborn
Allan and Teresa Cunningham
François and Marie-Thérèse Redien
Robert R. Cunningham
William and Patricia Cunningham
Helen Cunningham
Barbara White
William Rankin
Marjorie Davis
Glenn and Susan Cunningham
Sheryl Augsburg
Rodney Cunningham
Doris Pike
Michael C. Cunningham
Anne Cunningham
Robert W. Cunningham

Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2003

Fourth quarter revenues and expenditures for 2003.

Beginning balance October 1, 2003 **\$ 3,333.23**

Revenue

New Membership Dues	171.39
Renewal - Current Member Dues	830.00
Renewal - Noncurrent Member Dues	105.03
Newsletter Advertising	15.00
Merchandise	130.00
Bank Adjustments	4.00
Bank Account Interest	.35
Tombstone Fund Donations this quarter	620.00
Tombstone Fund Loans this quarter	<u>1,001.02</u>

Total revenue from 01-OCT-03 to 31-DEC-03 **\$ 2,876.79**

Total Tombstone Fund Donations at \$2,563.00

Expenditures

Advertising	115.00
Newsletter Expenditures	316.47
Membership dues	10.00
Web Site Expenses	71.32
Postage	69.66
Office Supplies	25.69
Bank Charges	4.00
Tombstone Expenditures	<u>1,498.62</u>

Total exp. from 01-OCT-03 to 31-DEC-03 **\$ 2,110.76**

Ending balance December 31, 2003 **\$ 4,099.26**

Total Tombstone Donations **\$ 2,563.00**

Total Tombstone Expenses **\$(6,298.62)**

Total Tombstone Deficit **\$(3,735.62)**

Total Tombstone Loan Balance **\$ 5,001.02**

Cash Donations in General Fund **\$ 1,265.40**

Respectfully submitted by Larry Augsburg, National Treasurer

High Commissioner's Message

Greetings Cunninghams and Loyal Supporters,

There was so much to report this last quarter that the expansion to 12 pages was still not nearly enough. I hope everyone will forgive my extensive use of pictures, but we have over a thousand images submitted and I tried to get in as many as I could to share the experience in both images and words.

I'm sorry to report that Dawn Augsburg has decided to resign after serving as an Officer and Director for the last two years. Her important contributions to the Board of Directors have been sizeable, much appreciated and will be missed.

I'm delighted to announce our new Colorado State Commissioners Chris and Val Cunningham of Castle Rock who write: "BACK FROM SCOTLAND!!! A big thank you to Larry Augsburg for making the Dedication Ceremony in Edinburgh Scotland for John Cunningham the 15th Earl of Glencairn a huge success! It was a privilege to be a part of history in the making and knowing that future generations will be able to have a landmark in tracing their family and ancestral records. Although the time spent was brief, the memories of Robert Burns poems, Clan Cunningham dining by candlelight at Balgonie Castle, St. Andrews in the rain, the generous Scottish hospitality received at Finlaystone Castle and the friendships made along the way will last a lifetime."



I want to acknowledge the contributions of Frances Powers and the munificent gift by Sheryl Cunningham of Littleton, CO to the 15th Earl's memorial fund. They have both received a full color, numbered, 11" x 17" rendering of the Lord Lyon created and certified Glencairn Arms for their generous contributions. For a minimum donation of \$100.00 you can have print #4.

It is indeed an exhilarating time to be a Cunningham and be part of the CCSA Clan Cunningham Rising!

2003 Clan Cunningham Scotland Trip Spotlight

All captions in these photos will list members names from left to right.



Cheryl Marshall, Fran Powers, Dawn Augsbury, Chris, Val and Sheryl Cunningham at the Village Inn in Glenrothes, Scotland.



Sheryl Cunningham, Twyla Dell & Val Cunningham at the Clan Cunningham Gathering at Balgonie Castle



Eileen & Keith Cunningham

At right, Chris & Val Cunningham, 2003 Amateur Ballroom Dance Champions strut their stuff at the Scotsman on Cockburn Street in Edinburgh off The Royal Mile.



Earl Cunningham & Val Cunningham marvel at the size of the Yorkshire Pudding at the Brewers Fayre in Dumbarton on Sunday evening.



Brewster steals Alva Shoemaker's cowboy hat at the restaurant in Glenrothes.



Scottish Hairy Kooes by Val Cunningham



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