



CLAN CUNNINGHAM

COMMUNIQUE

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VOLUME 1, ISSUE 16, JANUARY 15, 2005 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Clan Cunningham Gathering 2004 at Stirling Castle

by Larry A. Augsbury, International Newsletter Publisher.



Front row: Maureen Cunningham, Mneesha Gellman, Geri Cunningham, Sheryl Cunningham, JoAnn Cunningham, Frances Powers. **Middle row:** Earl Cunningham, Sherell Cunningham, Mrs. John Cunningham, Jeanne Cunningham, Jennea Augsbury, Valerie Cunningham, Ben Cunningham. **Back row:** Kevin Cunningham, Martin Cunningham, Chris Cunningham, Gordon Cunningham, John Cunningham, Larry Augsbury, Kate Buchanan, Doris Naude, Rick Augsbury.

Sixteen Cunninghams and friends from the U.S., Scotland and the U.K. answered the Calling of the Clan Cunningham Society of America to gather together at Stirling Castle with their six Cunningham cousins from Scotland and England, who are affiliated with the Society of the Earl of Glencairn of Cunningham, on November 28, 2004, for the second

consecutive Clan Cunningham Gathering in Scotland to celebrate once again the ties that bind and unite this ancient Clan of Scots together. We all enjoyed a tour of Stirling Castle and its rich history, spent some time getting acquainted, dined, discussed the nature and future of our mutual association and celebrated the Holiday season in song.

Please note that to access the "Member Only" pages of our web site, your "Username" is your email address and your [new](#) "Password" are both under the return address on page 8.

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.

Historical Sites Tour of France & St. Andrew's Gala

The eight U.S. members of the Clan Cunningham Society of America (CCSA) who participated in the Historical Sites Tour of France and Scotland met on Thursday morning, last November 18th, in the Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris from which we embarked by train to Poitiers. There we were met by two French CCSA members François Redien, and Scottish born Jim Hutchison, for the short journey by car to the Château de Cherveux,



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

residence of François and Marie-Thérèse Redien, where we lodged for three nights, and where we celebrated our Scottish connection on Saturday, November 20th, at the St Andrew's Night Gala for an evening of fine dining, music, dancing and fellowship with local French and Scottish residents from the vicinity. The three days were spent exploring France, its châteaux - most with Scottish, and even Cunningham connections - and one afternoon, evening, and night taking in the city of light, and love; Paris!

We were greeted with refreshments accompanied by a warm fire in the guardhouse, where we finalized plans for our Loire Valley tour on the following morning, then settled into our rooms. We met shortly thereafter, in the renovated great hall for a splendid welcome dinner.



Frances, Marie-Thérèse, Larry & Rick select their cheese choices from the fromage course of the welcome dinner.

Our tour of the Loire Valley châteaux began at Chenonceau where Marie Stuart,



CCSA members, Larry, Jennea, François, Valerie, Frances, Rick, Sheryl, Chris, Jim & JoAnn, from France and the U.S. visit Chenonceau.

better known as Mary Queen of Scots, spent much time at the French Court. Mary was Queen of both France and Scotland. She was a beautiful young woman and was probably the most romantic, and certainly the most tragic Scottish ruler. She was born in Scotland. Her mother was Marie de Guise of France and her father James V, king of Scotland. He died when Mary was an infant and her mother returned to France with Mary because of the turmoil in Scotland. Mary was raised in the French court and was destined to marry the young Dauphin François. He became king François II at age 15 upon the death of his father. He married Mary who was 14 and the two were devoted to each other, but sadly he only lived and reigned for a year. During this year there were plots to depose François II and the court then moved to Amboise where the plotters were taken, and hundreds of them put to death while the young Queen was in residence. In happier times the royals, including Mary, spent much time at the beautiful château de Chenonceau, which straddles the Cher, where there are references to Mary. When François died in Orleans, his mother Catherine de Medici was instrumental in having Mary returned to Scotland where she was crowned Queen. Later, she was kept prisoner in England for years and eventually beheaded on the order of her cousin Queen Elizabeth I of England. Mary's son became the first king of Great Britain in 1603.

Next stop, le Château Royal d'Amboise which majestically borders the Loire with its 15th century French Gothic,

and 16th century Renaissance styles. But first, was our reservation for déjeuner at the Brasserie de l'Hôtel de ville, Chez



Hippeau, in Amboise. (above) During our château visit, we witnessed no evidence of hostility, as was present during Marie Stuart's time, while we toured the castle, chapel and grounds, not even from the weather, despite the angry clouds that



loomed overhead. (as shown above)

Leonardo da Vinci joined the French court at Amboise in 1516, where he is interred according to his wishes, which included his gift of the Mona Lisa. He lived a short walk away at the Château du Clos Lucé, (below) which is today a grand



park which incorporates and exhibits the immensity of his genius. We couldn't resist a visit.

With so much to see and absorb, and so little time, we had to revise our itinerary as the day progressed. After considering our options, and consulting everyone, including Marie-Thérèse by phone regarding our supper that evening at the Château de Cherveux, and also our coach driver, we all decided to continue the drive to the châteaux Chinon and Saumur further west down the Loire Valley.

Since it would be well after dark when we arrived, we were hoping that the castles would be floodlit. We discovered Chinon in darkness, but undaunted, we pressed on to Saumur, where our persistence was rewarded. *(As seen below on the Loire)*



The next morning was a cultural experience with a visit to the Saturday market in nearby Niort; which is a much more interpersonal one than going to the neighborhood supermarket in America as Rick and Fran discovered at one of the fish stalls. *(pictured below)* The open



markets in France left us with a different perception for the term fresh, where it is practically impossible to find any prepackaged items; certainly not the meat, vegetables, or cheese as indicated *below*.



Adjacent to the market is the medieval Dungeon of Niort where Jacques Conyngham was Captain of the Guard there under King Louis XII and François I.

Jacques was also the Lord of Cherveux and the son of Robert de Conyngham's eldest son Joachim, whom together with his father Robert, built the Château de Cherveux as it stands today circa 1470. We visited the Dungeon, and some of us also visited the museum inside.



Niort Dungeon from the open market.

We enjoyed lunch as guests of Julie and Jim Hutchison at their charming home in the French countryside. Julie unfortunately was out of town, but made some preliminary preparations that assured a terrific meal at chez Hutchison.



Lunch at the Hutchison's

After lunch our group split up to pursue different diversions. One group played golf while the other returned to the



Larry, Jim, Val & Chris finish 9 at twilight at the Mazières en Gatine golf course.

Château de Cherveux for a guided tour by François. *(taken at one's own risk, below!)*



St. Andrew's Night Gala

The bridge spanning the moat which was lit by flaming torches as it had likely been *(below)* in the 15th century, when the château was built by Robert de



Conyngham, led one through the entrance tunnel past the guard house and into the candlelit courtyard, *(above)* across to the stairs and into the Great Hall where the St Andrew's Night Gala took place.

The evening began at 8:00pm with apéritifs in the hall of the guard house. We were then piped across the enchanting courtyard and into the Great Hall by Piper

David Steele. *(right)* Before dinner François welcomed the friends of the Auld Alliance to the Gala. I then made a presentation to François of a tartan banner from CCSA, made by Val Cunningham, along with our CCSA



"Clan Cunningham Origins, Heritage and Traditions" book in English to accompany the hard-bound edition translated into French and presented to him in 2003 by CCSA. One was also given to Jim Hutchison, as well as to three other guests that were selected by François. I then presented François and Jim, on behalf of CCSA, with etched crystal medallions and embroidered neck straps which proclaimed their Honorary Lifetime Member status bestowed upon them by the Board of Directors to demonstrate our appreciation for their extraordinary and exemplary service to the Clan Cunningham Society over the last two years.

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Our sumptuous dinner then commenced with the following menu:

- Apéritifs: Hypocras & Pineau du Château
- Flaky cheese and fruit pastry fingers
- Canapés of escargot, salmon & goat cheese
- Cream of smoked pumpkin soup & Fourine Aubert
- Filet of Beef with autumn mushrooms
- Mashed potatoes au foie gras w/red wine sauce
- Cheeses and seasonal fruit compote
- Salad with nut oil
- Tumbler with mango and sweetened avocado

We Americans were seated at three different tables to accommodate the mixture of origins and languages which



Notice on the hutch, the tartan banner with our crest badge embroidered upon it including also our name, event, and date.

made for a fascinating evening of conversation. Our banquet was prepared by Rogier, a chef de parti at the "Georges V" of Paris, aided by Francine (both pictured below with the basket). Their lavish cheese



(from the Niort market) basket made the choice of fromage an enticing dilemma. Seated at François' table, were the other two members of our golf party, Tony and Maureen Murdoch, who are a part of the Scottish community of Cherveux. (below)



After dinner, the tables were cleared away when Chris & Val graced us with a ballroom dance exhibition of several all-



time favorites including the Foxtrot, Tango, Quickstep, Samba and the Bolero as (captured at left).

Then the music changed to Scottish reels and everyone joined in the dancing, which can require a great deal of stamina, especially "Strip the Willow" which went on for quite some time leaving us blissfully exhausted! We danced and



Top left: Jim & Rosalie lead the dance. Bottom left: David & Frances Steele, and Tony & Maureen Murdoch take a spin. Right: François entertains us on the sax.

conversed well into the morning. One such conversation was François' love of Jazz music. In fact, while attending our first Gathering in 2003, François & Marie-Thérèse, along with Jim & Julie spent an evening in an Edinburgh Jazz Club. So, after much coaxing we

persuaded François to play the sax for us!

Before saying our final goodbyes, all twenty-seven of the remaining guests joined hands and sang "Auld Lang Syne." (below)



Cherveux Au temps des Cunningham



M. Aupbury, et M. Redien

Dans notre édition d'hiver s'est glissée une malencontreuse erreur de photo. La venue des Cunningham au château de Cherveux représentait un grand moment pour les huit Américains en quête de leurs racines. Pour retrouver leurs traces, François Redien, maître des lieux, a fait appel à un journaliste écossais JB Hutchinson demeurant à Cherveux depuis de nombreuses années. Bien intégré, parfaitement bilingue et grâce à une collaboration intensive avec François Redien l'histoire des Cunning-

gham et de leurs descendants a pu être mise en lumière. Traductions et coaniers envoyés par internet ont abouti à des rassemblements ponctuels. Le château reçoit régulièrement des hôtes de qualité. En janvier prochain, une spécialiste australienne qui travaille sur la présence des écossais en France pendant le Moyen Age, viendra visiter le château avec Nicolas Faucherie, maître de conférence à La Rochelle.

Château de Cherveux 86 et 86-1-05 69 75 66 38 Internet www.chateau-de-cherveux.com e-mail redien@chateau-

The local press did a story on the St. Andrew's Night Gala, the banner and book presentation, and interviewed Clan Cunningham about its connection to the Château de Cherveux and printed the 2 articles above and below on the next day.

Le clan Cunningham au château

Durant trois jours, le château de Cherveux a accueilli avec un grand plaisir des descendants de son fondateur écossais, Robert de Cunningham, écuyer du roi Louis XI. En effet, la semaine dernière, huit Américains du clan Cunningham ont séjourné au château et ont profité de la région pour s'enrichir historiquement.

Les Américains, emmenés par Larry Aupbury, le chairman du clan Cunningham aux USA, et par sa mère Frances Cunningham, ont d'abord été chaleureusement accueillis dans la huzne chez le jeudi après-midi par François Redien, maître des lieux. La diaspora Cunningham comptait plus de 700 membres, répartis principalement en Amérique du Nord, mais aussi dans le monde entier.

Le lendemain matin, tout le monde a pris le départ pour visi-



Larry Aupbury, le chairman du clan Cunningham aux USA, et sa mère, Frances Cunningham.

ter quelques-uns des plus beaux châteaux de la Loire, comme Chenonceau ou Amboise. Ces deux châteaux ont connu Marie-Stuart, fille du roi d'Écosse, mariée à François II, alors roi de France. Pour l'anecdote, ce dernier ne ré-

gna qu'un an car il fut tué par le capitaine écossais de sa garde du corps.

Golf et visites

Le retour des voyageurs a été marqué par un passage via le châ-

teau de Saumur (Brenais).

Le samedi matin a été occupé par une visite du marché aux herbes de Niort, sans oublier le déjeûner et l'exposition chinoise. L'après-midi fut consacré pour certains au golf sur le parcours de Mazières et par la visite du château pour les autres, plus intéressés par l'histoire de leur ancêtre écossais.

Le soir, un grand dîner de gala préparé par deux chefs originaires de Cherveux a réuni de nombreux convives dans la salle rénovée. Pour la même occasion, et célébrer ainsi de la plus belle manière saint Andrew, patron des Écossais, le château a bénéficié d'un très bel éclairage.

Après ce séjour en France, ces voyageurs venus du Colorado, du Texas et de la Caroline du Nord se sont envolés pour poser leurs valises à Sterling afin d'y fêter dignement le deuxième rassemblement du clan Cunningham sur leur terre d'origine.

The City of Light: Paris

On every trip, a little rain must fall; and our rain cloud burst the next morning at the St. Maixent train station when our train failed to arrive, because they were on strike! So, we caught a bus to Poitiers and caught the next train to Paris. Not a hard rain really; more like just a sprinkle.

The metaphorical rain did intensify when we were changing Metro (Paris subway) lines on the way to our hotel. Metro officers asked for our validated tickets, which we did not save. So, after a long discussion, I paid a fine and we were on our way, me the wiser, if a bit poorer!

The afternoon and evening was spent sight-seeing at the usual places: Notre Dame, the Louvre, Champs Elysées, Arc de Triumph and the Eiffel Tower (below).



On Monday morning - our travel day to Scotland - our group diverged. Chris, Val, Sheryl and JoAnn spent the day in Paris; then flew to Glasgow. *At left*, they repose under the Eiffel Tower. Fran, Rick, Jennea & Larry took the Eurostar train through the Chunnel to London, for the day, and on to Glasgow by train. Fran and Larry visited 221B Baker street posing as Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson at the museum (below).



CCSA Historical Sites Tour of the District of Cunninghame, Scotland

We met at the Jurys Doyle Hotel in Glasgow on Monday evening, Nov. 22, to explore for 5 days some history made in Scotland by our fellow Cunninghams.

Our van, and driver Alastair, Director of Scottish Clans and Castles Ltd., met us the next morning to begin our adventure.



Our first stop was the oldest building in Dumbarton, **Glencairn Greit House** at the Cross in the High Street, built as his town house in 1623 by James, the 7th Earl of Glencairn.



The town council bought it in 1924 & renovated it with a ground floor entrance and arched windows to match the Quay

Pend to their left. The town was kind enough to allow us a full tour from top to bottom.

We were also given refreshments and some information about the building. As was the case throughout our tour of Cunningham sites, we left our hosts with a copy of our CCSA Historical Sites Tour 2004 special edition "Origins" book, which I presented to Helen Saye (below).

Just a short way down the river Leven was our next stop which was featured in detail in our Oct 15, 2002 newsletter, **Dumbarton Castle**, and if you don't have it, look for it soon on the "Member Only" pages of our web site.



Inside the Governor's House is an extensive exhibit featuring Admiral Sir Angus Cunninghame Graham 16th of Gartmore K.B.E., C.B., including his portrait (below), a copy of his commission as Governor from the Queen, and his uniform is displayed in a glass case. The coat of Arms of three other Cunninghams as Governors are also displayed.

Despite the weather, we explored the castle grounds. Larry, Val and Alastair hiked to the summit of White Tower Crag for a view from its highest point of 240 ft. (below).



Next visit was **Loch Lomond Shores** for a bite to eat, shopping, and a planned boat cruise of Loch Lomond. When we arrived and concluded the cruise was off due to weather, some stayed to eat and shop. Alastair pointed out that a former Cunningham holding, **Kilmarnock Castle** was close by according to the map. That's all it took for Chris, Val & I to seize the opportunity for a castle seeking adventure!



I knocked on the door of the charming home next to the castle ruins, opened by Ishbel MacInnes-Manby who graciously ceased painting a room, served us some welcome refreshments, while exchanging



information, (above) and granted us a look.

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Clans and Castles

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

Following our rendezvous at Loch Lomond, and return to our hotel, we set out on foot into the Glasgow city center night to look about and get some dinner.

We were on the road at 8am next morn' for a busy Day 2 with 5 sites on Wednesday's itinerary. We began at the **Kilmacolm Old Kirk**, where the Earls of Glencairn attended church and many Cunninghams are interred. We were



outside when Betty Main arrived (above) to give us a splendid tour of the Kirk and lecture in the Murray Chapel (below). I



left with Betty's book on the history of the Old Kirk, together with some other interesting papers, (that will appear in later issues of this newsletter) and of course I gave Betty a copy of our book to show our gratitude for her tour. (right)

Our long feud with the Porterfields was renewed in the courtyard of the Old Kirk, so I thought it was fitting to visit **Duchal House**, and then the castle ruins, where we planned to undertake some harmless and sporting mischief!

We were met by Lord and Lady MacLay (Lord pointing, with group, below)

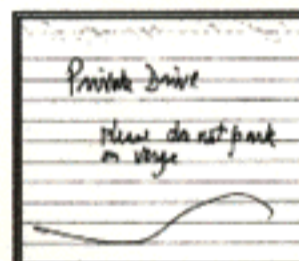


and joined by the Lord's mother, Lady Nancy. We were only expecting a tour of the gardens, but received the gracious hospitality of refreshments and a tour of the grounds, gardens and house!



The mirth evident (above) stems from an anecdote I was relating from my May 2000 trip. I wanted a photo of Duchal House but did not want to trouble the owners, nor risk being removed when I divulged I was a Cunningham, so I parked near the road and walked through a pasture to the edge of the River Gryfe, and with my tripod in the water took this shot of Duchal House. →

When I returned to my car, I found a note under the windshield wiper (below). Sheryl and I couldn't help chuckling with the notion that if the Porterfields only knew that it was Cunninghams on their verge, they might have flattened our tires or had us towed!



Duchal Castle was the seat of the Porterfields, since, John Porterfield bought it in 1560. Duchal House was built in 1768, and remains a most impressive estate today.

So, onward we went to the ruins of Duchal Castle, thanks to the directions supplied by Chief George MacMillan whom we visited later that afternoon, who thankfully scouted the location out for us a few weeks earlier. The steep and rugged area of ruins at the junction of Green and Blacketty waters was so overgrown that it is almost completely reclaimed by mother nature. Following the sword fight at the Kirk, James-Master of Glencairn besieged Duchal Castle, brought down some walls, put fire to buildings, and took possession. In order to more closely connect with our past, I commissioned Sheryl Cunningham to construct a paper model of Duchal Castle (right) so that we could reenact the Clan Cunningham



house warming party, torching Duchal, on the actual site of the event which took place five centuries before in 1578. (below)



We hope no offense is taken; none intended.

We then arrived at Finlaystone, the former seat of Clan Cunningham for four centuries, and now the seat of Clan MacMillan. Their Chief, George MacMillan, kindly offered to guide us to **Newark Castle** a short distance away. Chief George informed us that Newark Castle's Tower House & Gatehouse would have resembled Finlaystone's own when Sir Alexander, Lord Kilmaurs first moved the seat of Clan Cunningham there from Kilmaurs in the fifteenth century.



At Finlaystone I presented Chief George with a banner commemorating our third visit in four years, together with a hard-back, leather bound, gold-foil-stamped copy of our "Origins" book for his years of kindness and generosity to us.



Chief George gave us a tour of the estate and the history, after which we dined at the nearby Langbank Lodge on our way back to our Glasgow hotel for the night.



The National Secretary's Report

With 742 members worldwide, we continue to welcome new members like our six new members that joined Clan Cunningham during the last quarter. I also wish to welcome back the thirty-six members who renewed last quarter, for their continued support. Welcome back! We could not continue our work to discover, preserve and promote our Scottish heritage without your valuable support of our Clan Cunningham Society.

NEW 2005 MEMBERS

Kevin Ensor
JoAnn and Bob Cunningham
Janet Edwards
Gordon Cunningham (Scotland)
Alastair Cunningham
Gordon Cunningham (Ireland)

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Deborah Green
Sandra Cunningham, PhD
Keith Cunningham
Jean Cunningham
François & Marie-Thérèse Redien
Jim & Julie Hutchison

SUSTAINING 2004 MEMBERS

Larry & Maxie Cunningham

SUSTAINING 2005 MEMBERS

Larry Augsbury
Andrea and Darrell Leffew
Corby and Jane Christensen
James Olsen
Sheryl Cunningham
Dennis and Barbara Leishman
Ronald Cunningham
Fay and Geraldine Cunningham
James R. Cunningham
James D. Cunningham
Joyce Gellenbeck
Mary Ford
James and Janice Augsbury
William and Norma Wallace
Elizabeth Hurd
James C. and Ruth Cunningham
Vern and Addie Cunningham

SUSTAINING 2005 MEMBERS

Jeannette Jones
Rose and Gerald Trigg
Susan Heaton
Allan and Teresa Cunningham
William and Patricia Cunningham
Barbara White
Marjorie and Walter Davis
Sheryl Augsbury
Robert W. Cunningham
Twyla Dell
Rick and Jennea Augsbury
Dale MacMahill
Beverly White
Laura and Edmund Cunningham
Chris and Valerie Cunningham
Kenn Cunningham
James S. Cunningham
Jacqueline and James Robertson

Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2004

Fourth quarter revenues and expenditures for 2004.

Beginning balance October 1, 2004 **\$ 1,140.37**

Revenue

New Membership Dues	105.11
Renewal - Current Member Dues	848.50
Renewal - Noncurrent Member Dues	20.00
Prepaid Member Dues	113.50
Merchandise	80.82
General Fund Donation	10.00
Tombstone Fund Donations this quarter	100.00
Tombstone Fund Loan Payments this quarter	(100.00)

Total revenue from 01-OCT-04 to 31-DEC-04 **\$ 1,177.93**

Expenditures

Advertising	100.00
Newsletter Expenditures	86.09
Printing	135.11
Postage	47.28
Bank Charges	5.00
* Tour gift book to Chief George & Captain Robert	300.00
** Clansmen/women Awards 2004	320.00

Total exp. from 01-OCT-04 to 31-DEC-04 **\$ 993.48**

Ending balance December 31, 2004 **\$ 1,324.82**

Tombstone Donations This Quarter	\$ 100.00
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)

* Hard-back, leather-bound, gold-foil stamped CCSA 2004 Tour Special Edition "Origins" books were presented to Chief George MacMillan of Finlaystone and Captain Robert Cuninghame of Caprington Castle during the Historical Sites Tour in November.

** Six etched crystal medallions with neck ribbons and one etched mug were awarded to François Redien, Jim Hutchison, Alec Cunningham, Kevin Ensor, Chris & Val Cunningham and Sheryl Cunningham for their exemplary service to Clan Cunningham.

Respectfully submitted by Larry Augsbury, National Treasurer

High Commissioner's Message



Greetings Members,

I began this newsletter with the intention of including a report on our entire Historical Sites Tour and Stirling Gathering - which took place last November - in a twelve page newsletter. With so much to tell, and so many pictures to accompany our adventure, the deadline arrived before I could finish. So the final three days of our District of Cunningham Tour, and our Gathering will be concluded in our next issue coming this April.

The events of last November capped off another terrific year for Clan Cunningham; one that witnessed members in kilts on the golf course at our 1st Annual Golf Tourney in Colorado. We can take great pride in knowing that the spirit of Clan Cunningham is alive and flourishing through the continued participation and support of members like you. Our memorial to the 15th Earl in Edinburgh, Gatherings, and visits to Cunningham historical sites in France and Scotland over the last two years have made impressive strides in creating awareness that the legacy of the Clan Cunningham is well remembered & celebrated in the USA and beyond. We continue to make our presence known by

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joining in friendship and common cause with Cunninghams from the land of our ancestors, which may one day result in the reinstatement of a contemporary Clan Chief. This would require that a descendant of the Earldom claim the title, which to this point has not occurred successfully. There is another alternative by which the Lord Lyon can reinstate a chief. This requires Cunninghams to agree on a "Commander" to serve up to ten years after which a chief could be named. This option is a possibility that we are pursuing, requiring much organization and worldwide cooperation. In the meantime, our society will continue to discover, preserve and promote our Scottish heritage despite the many obstacles we continue to encounter; like the legal judgment and Writ of Garnishment we were forced to obtain against the original sculptor of the 15th Earl's monument to recover our deposit after he failed to perform our agreement; like the battle we are currently engaging against our original tour provider from last November, Paul McLean of Mcleanscotland of Perth, who failed to perform our tour agreement, which had to be cancelled, and who refuses to return our \$5,000.00 deposit; like our property with which some dissidents absconded, and refuse to return, and will likely need to be resolved in a court of law.

Despite an era seemingly lacking in virtues like honor, there are still places like Mauchline, with people like Jim Davidson, Donald Howe, Ian Lyell, Andrew Lindsay, Jim Shirkie and Bob Baillie that can render one wonderstruck with their goodwill and friendship. *(see article at right)* A trip to Robert Burns country without a trip to Mauchline, is like a trip to Paris without seeing the Eiffel tower.

So, undaunted, plans are already being developed for a Gathering in Ireland in May 2006. Will you be joining us?

FEATURE

Howdy, y'all

Americans
enjoy
Burns
country

The attached image shows Burns Club President, Jim Davidson shaking hands with High Commissioner, Larry Augsbury. ps



MAUCLINE Burns Club held out a hand of friendship to a clan of American visitors eager to experience the highlights of Burns Country.

Recently the Burns Club hosted a group of Americans, who were persuaded that it would be worth their while to visit Mauchline.

The group was from the Clan Cunningham Society of America and was led by High Commissioner Larry Augsbury from Dallas, Texas.

They were met on arrival by Burns Club President, Jim Davidson wearing full highland dress and his Burns Club chain of office and other Club members.

Ian Lyell, the Burns Club guide, then took over and gave the party a short history of Burns' time in Mauchline before taking them in to see Gavin Hamilton's House, now known as Mauchline Castle. They visited the graves of several well known Burns contemporaries in the kirkyard, then on to the Museum, the Jean Armour Statue and Poesie Nansie where they were entertained by some stalwarts of the now famous 'Jolly Beggars Cantata' group.

Burns Club member Donald Howe revealed: "It was something special to see these entertainers performing in the very room where Burns had seen the original Jolly Beggars. President Jim Davidson brought a tear to the eye of Larry Augsbury when he demonstrated our friendship by gifting to him a painting, there and then, from the wall of Poesie Nansie's kitchen together with a certificate stating where it had been taken from."

"Some of the action was filmed for our documentary and the Americans felt excited and privileged to be unexpectedly helping with that."



Clan Cunningham Communiqué
Newsletter of CCSA since 1984
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