



Clan Hannay News

Spring Summer 2006

the Hannays of Sorbie



Artists rendition of Sorbie Tower in the 16th century.
(courtesy Clan Hannay Society website)

The Hannays hail from the ancient princedom of Galloway. The original spelling of the name appears to have been "Ahannay" and although its origin is uncertain, it may derive from the Gaelic "O'Hannaidh" or "Ap Shenaeigh."

Gilbert de Hannethe appears on the Ragman Roll among the Scottish Barons submitting to Edward I of England in 1296. This may be the same Gilbert who acquired the lands of Sorbie.

The Hannays were suspicious of the ambitions of the Bruces, and supported the claim of John Balliol who, through his mother, Lady Devorgilla, was descended from the Celtic Princes of Galloway.

In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries they extended their influence over much of the surrounding countryside, building a tower on their lands at Sorbie around 1550. The tower was the seat of the chief family of this name until the seventeenth century, when it fell into disrepair after the family were outlawed.

In 1965 the tower was presented to a clan trust, and a maintenance scheme was put in hand.

There were many distinguished scions of the chiefly house, including Patrick Hannay, the distinguished soldier and poet whose literature, once highly regarded, is now almost forgotten. The grandson of

Donald Hannay of Sorbie, he entered the service of Queen Elizabeth of Bohemia, the daughter of James VI and sister of Charles I, who became his patron.

In 1619, Hannay published two eulogies on the death of Queen Anne, wife of James VI, and on his own death many eulogies were published. The best of these expresses the high regard with which Patrick and his kin were held:

Hannay thy worth betrays well whence thou'rt sprung and that that honour'd name thou dost not wrong; As if from Sorbie's stock no branch could sprout but should with ripening bear golden fruit. Thy Ancestors were ever worthy found else Galdus' grave had grac'd no Hannay ground. Thy father's father Donald well was knowne to the English by his sword, but thou art showne by pen (times changing) Hannays are active in acts of worth be't peace or war. Go on in virtue, aftertimes will tell, none but a Hannay could have done so well.

(Galdus was a resistance leader against the Romans.)

Also from the house of Sorbie came James Hannay, the Dean of St Giles' in Edinburgh, who has passed into legend as the minister who attempted to read the new liturgy in St Giles' in July 1637. It was at Dean Hannay's head that Jenny Geddes

flung her stool crying, "Thou false thief, dost thou say Mass at my lug?" A full scale riot ensued, which ultimately had to be suppressed by the town guard.

In 1630, Sir Robert Hannay of Mochrum was created a Baronet of Nova Scotia. Other branches descended from Sorbie include the Hannays of Grennan, Knock, Garrie and Kingsmuir.

At the beginning of the seventeenth century the Hannays of Sorbie became locked in a deadly feud with the Murrays of Broughton, which ended in the Hannays' being outlawed and ruined. The lands and tower of Sorbie were lost around 1640.

One consequence of the family's being outlawed was the emigration of large numbers of Hannays to Ulster, where the name is still found widely in Counties Antrim, Down and Armagh. The Hannays of Newry are reckoned to be the senior branch of the emigrant families.

In 1582, Alexander Hannay, a younger son of Sorbie, purchased the lands of Kirkdale in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright. His son, John Hannay of Kirkdale, inherited the estate and established the line which is now recognised by the Lord Lyon as chief of the name.

Alexander Hannay, a younger son of Kirkdale, was a professional soldier who

See HANNAYS page 2

HANNAYS from page 1

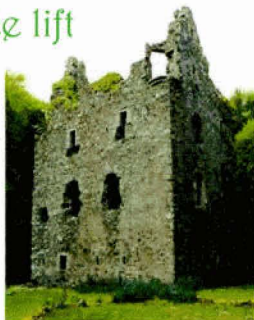
served in India, where he rose to the rank of colonel. His eldest brother, Sir Samuel Hannay of Kirkdale, succeeded to the title and estates of his kinsman, Sir Robert Hannay of Mochrum, Baronet.

The next baronet, Sir Samuel Hannay, entered the service of the Hapsburg Emperors, and prospered sufficiently to build for himself a grand mansion on his family lands. The house is said to have provided the inspiration for Sir Walter Scott's novel, "Guy Mannering." Sir Samuel died in 1841 and the baronetcy became dormant.

The estate of Kirkdale and the representation of the family passed to Sir Samuel's sister, Mary, and on her death in 1850 to her nephew, William Rainsford Hannay. Our present chief, David Hannay, is his descendant. [from *MyClan.com*]

The old Place of Sorbie gets a face lift

In an ongoing restoration process of Sorbie Tower, phase two has involved painting and making the south and west walls weatherproof, stabilizing the central stairwell, and repairing the ground floor vaults to form a viewing platform for visitors, according to Clan Chief David Hannay.



Clan Hannay Society West

The west and south walls of Sorbie Tower

The walls have been finished, as has much of the central stairway, leaving the vaults to be done, after which the Tower will once again be safe for visitors.

The Clan was recently turned down for a grant for additional preservation monies, and had to borrow the funds to complete the Sorbie project.

If you would like to make a donation toward the preservation of the Old Place of Sorbie, please make your check payable to Clan Hannay Society, and mail to: Clan Hannay Society, c/o Jamie Hanna, 73 Glenashton Drive, Oakville, Ontario, Canada, L6H 7A1. Be sure to mark your check "Sorbie Tower donation."

For more information: 905-257-2549, Fax: 905-257-5162, or email Jamie Hanna at jhanna@brandexperts.ca. Any contributions would be very much appreciated. But with a donation of \$30 or more, you will receive a free Clan Hannay T-shirt! Please include your shirt size when you send in your donation.

Thanks.

A wee bit of history trivia

Writer Samuel Johnson was born Sept. 18, 1709. One of the great men of his age, Johnson is famous not only for compiling the first dictionary of the English language, but for the sometimes bizarre and acid definitions to be found therein; including OATS: "A grain, which in England is generally given to horses, but in Scotland supports the people." What a wit.

On Sept. 28, 1066, William, Duke of Normandy, landed at Pevensey on the south coast of England with a force of 7,000 men. English king Edward the Confessor had died in January, leaving three claimants to the throne -- Harald Hardrada King of Norway, the Saxon Harold Godwinson, and William. Hardrada invaded first in the north and on September 25th was repelled at Stamford Bridge. Godwinson was then forced to march south to join the Normans in fateful battle at Hastings.

Saint Margaret of Scotland died 15 November 1093. She was a leading figure in bringing the Scottish Celtic Church into conformity with the Roman Catholic Church. Her daughter married Henry I of England, uniting the old Royal line with that of the new Norman dynasty which had been established by William the Conqueror.

November 29th is the anniversary of the birth in 1489 of Margaret Tudor, first daughter of Henry VII of England and grandmother of Mary, Queen of Scots. Margaret married James IV in Edinburgh on 8 August 1503 and was crowned Queen of Scotland in March 1504.

November 30 -- St. Andrew's Day.

On December 4, 1894, the famous Scots novelist, Robert Louis Stevenson, died unexpectedly of a stroke in Samoa. Natives hacked a path up Mount Vaea to bury him -- his epitaph was his own poem, "Requiem."

The University of Glasgow was founded December 7, 1451 by a Papal bull - or charter - at the request of King James II of Scotland. James wanted a second university (the first to be founded was St Andrews) to allow Scotland to rival the two English universities at Oxford and Cambridge.

On 29 January 1886 Karl Benz patented the first practical car with petrol-driven internal combustion engine. It had three rubber-tyred wheels and went at 9.3mph.

These glimpses of history are taken from the 'The Scotsman' -- heritage.scotsman.com.

Famous Scots

Sir William Wallace

That William Wallace is a giant of Scottish history is beyond question. The stature of the man is such that he has grown along with his legend and in many descriptions he now stands a gargantuan 6 feet, 7 inches. His deeds, like his height, may be exaggerated but what is also beyond question is that Wallace is one of Scotland's greatest heroes. So, in the midst of all the myths, who was the real William Wallace?

Most people know of Wallace from the film *Braveheart*, which like most films blends fact with fiction. Like many histories, *Braveheart* tells of the son of Sir Malcolm Wallace, a minor noble of Renfrewshire, who became the symbol of resistance to English conquest. In fact, the truth is more complicated.

A letter reveals Wallace as the son of Alan, a small landowner related to Malcolm. The name comes from le Waleis, meaning the Welshman. Perhaps surprisingly, Wallace's family was descended from an English servant of a Norman knight who travelled north at the invitation of David I of Scotland.

The Wallace family were not united in resisting the English. William's father might have had no allegiance but his two brothers, John and Malcolm, were both supporters of the Bruce. When King John Balliol raised an army against the English at Dunbar in 1296, Malcolm and John fought alongside Bruce on the English side. But as a leader of the Scots' resistance William Wallace supported Balliol's claim to the throne.

One of the earliest accounts of Wallace comes from the work of Blind Harry, a fifteenth century poet who in turn is said to have based his accounts on a Benedictine monk, John Blair. Blair is described as Wallace's friend during his education at Dundee and later a comrade-in-arms. However, it is questionable whether Wallace ever studied in Dundee.

Blind Harry's epic tales of Wallace's heroism, with a body count that would make any Hollywood action hero jealous, certainly make an exciting read. In these accounts, Wallace enters Ayr in disguise - difficult, surely, for such a tall man - and challenges English soldiers to duels, avenges numerous injustices and defeats thousands of soldiers almost single-handedly. From these stories some controversially hail Wallace as the true inspiration for Robin Hood.

Wallace was indeed an outlaw, but like most outlaws his life was less than the stuff of romantic literature. Court records mention one William Wallace as a thief, the partner of a Matthew of York, who robbed a woman at her home. Wallace escaped the charge.

At least one of the outlaw tales is true. Wallace did kill Sir William Heselrig, English sheriff of Lanark, in 1297. However, it is doubtful whether this was in revenge for the murder of his mistress by the

English, as the tales recount. Like the tales though, he was certainly not lacking in bravado. His next deed was to attack Sir William Ormsby, one of Scotland's English governors. Ormsby fled for his life.

During his outlaw life, Wallace met another rising star of the Scots' rebellion, Andrew Murray. Many historians credit Murray as the real genius behind the popular uprising. Murray, a nobleman, lived as an outlaw himself and the two met and joined forces for the battle of Stirling Bridge in September 1297. But whatever the reasons behind the success at Stirling, Murray died from wounds a month later leaving Wallace to champion the cause alone.

Stirling Bridge turned Wallace from brigand to national symbol, including in the minds of the English. "Tell your commander that we are not hear to make peace but to do battle to defend ourselves and to liberate our kingdom. Let them come on, and we shall prove this in their very beads," Wallace is quoted as saying before the battle by an English writer of the time.

Wallace did not have long to glory in his fame as defeat quickly followed at Falkirk in 1298. He fled Scotland for the continent where

he tried to enlist support for John Balliol and Scotland's cause. He returned to find the resistance crumbling. Robert the Bruce defected in 1302 and the Scots parliament confirmed a peace treaty with Edward in 1304. Following the treaty, the Scots were persuaded that one of the conditions for peace was the life of William Wallace.

In truth Edward had been trying to capture him before, and used Scots to do it. In March 1303 he paid some Scots who failed to ambush Wallace. In March 1305 a Scot who had previously been part of the resistance, Sheriff John Menteith, succeeded where others failed. Wallace was captured in or near Glasgow and shipped south to London, bound and gagged.

There he was paraded through the streets and taken to Westminster for trial before a panel of nobles. The charges and sentences were read together. They were: murder, arson, sacrilege, the destruction of property and, famously, treason. Wallace denied only the last charge.

After the trial Wallace was dragged through London by horse to be executed at Smithfield. He was hanged, cut down while still alive, disembowelled and probably castrated. His lungs, liver and heart were thrown on a fire for sacrilege and he was then decapitated. His head was placed on a pole at London Bridge and his limbs displayed in Scotland as a warning. And as *Braveheart* shows, Edward's message did not have the desired effect. [by Brendan O'Brien, *The Scotsman*]



The majestic standing stones of Callanish

by Caroline Wickham-Jones



Local folklore holds that on midsummer morning "the shining one" walks between the stones of Callanish.

Stone circles are evocative places and the stones at Callanish on the Isle of Lewis must be one of the most haunting. Not only is there the imposing physical presence of the stones and their spectacular landscape setting, there is also the atmosphere of mystery.

Callanish (or *Calanais*) is one of the larger stone settings of Britain. The stones tower to a height of nearly four metres and the main monument covers an area of some 5,000 square metres. The circle itself is relatively modest and comprises 13 upright stones with a huge megalith at the centre marking a later burial cairn. Callanish is set apart, however, by two things: The stone settings that run away from the circle in the form of a cross and the presence of at least six other stone circles in the vicinity.

The main monument at Callanish dates back to around 3,000 BC. Lewis at the time was populated by Stone Age farmers who

lived in small villages dotted around these Outer Hebridean islands. At Callanish they quarried monoliths from local gneiss stone and erected them carefully in a circle. The stability of the monument was clearly important and low mounds of earth and stones were added to the base of each upright because of the problems of digging sufficiently deep sockets. The central stone was set in place at this time and it is likely

that the three rows running away to south, east and west were added soon after, together with the avenue which today comprises 20 stones and runs to the north.

The central cairn was built at a later date, though it seems that by 1,000

centuries have the stones once more been revealed in full. The construction of a monument like Callanish was a skilled and time-consuming job. Five thousand years later it stands as a credit to its builders. It has been the subject of much study to unravel its mysteries, but though we have some strong hints we can never be sure what was in the minds of the prehistoric people of Lewis. Nevertheless, it does not take much to realise that these were sites of some importance. We can step beyond the stones - majestic as they are - and imagine the colour, sounds and smells that must have filled the sites when they were alive.

Stone circles like Callanish seem to have been used for ceremony and ritual over many centuries. We do not know whether this involved the whole community or part of it. It may have involved separate people at different times of the year, or various stages in life. There is general agreement that many of these sites have astronomical associations and Callanish is no exception. It seems to be linked to the rising of the moon in the south when, at a major standstill, it barely enters the sky, seeming to roll along the horizon to set among the stones. This would be a magical sight that took place every 18.6 years. It required skill



One legend concerning the stones claims they were erected by giants who were subsequently turned to stone by St Kieran.

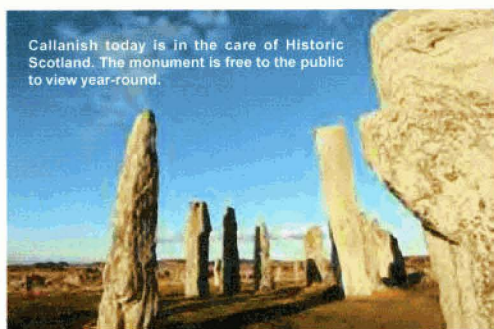
BC the use of the monument had changed and the land was once more under cultivation. Not long after this the onset of wetter conditions encouraged the formation of peat in the vicinity of the stones and the site became buried until only the tops of the stones were visible. Only in the last two

to incorporate it into the circle, but the prehistoric population is likely to have been much more familiar with the night sky than we are. Not only did they lack the distraction of electric light to dim the moon and stars, but they also lacked modern technology and thus had to rely more upon observation to tell the passing of the year and the coming of advantageous weather. For Stone Age farmers these elements were of great importance.

Callanish has attracted a respectable plethora of archaeologists from General Augustus Pitt-Rivers, the UK's first inspector of ancient monuments and father of British archaeology who in 1885 was concerned with the welfare of the site, to his contemporary at Historic Scotland, Patrick Ashmore, who carried out excavations in the early 1980s. Most recently, in 2002 and 2003, Callanish has been part of the Great Stone Circles project, led by Colin Richards from Manchester University. Richards has looked not just at the central site but also at the smaller circles. He is interested in the derivation of the stones and the results of his work are interesting. It seems that each circle

comprises stone from a separate, restricted location. This has led Richards to suggest that the circles were built by individual communities who exploited their local stones. Whether they were working together or in competition remains unclear, but the result was to provide an impressive monumental landscape.

Another body with a strong field interest in Callanish comes from archaeologists at Edinburgh University, who have been studying the landscape on Lewis for more than 20 years. Much of their work has been associated with the development of visitor facilities at Callanish, from their own Callanish Archaeological Research Centre at Callanish Farm to the Callanish Visitor Centre which now forms the interpretive centre for the site.



Callanish today is in the care of Historic Scotland. The monument is free to the public to view year-round.

Yet despite the strong academic interest in the stone circles it is their very mystery that continues to attract visitors. Long a popular focus for groups around the summer solstice, it is hoped the remoteness may ensure that the historic landmark retains its magical atmosphere for many centuries to come.

[Caroline Wickham-Jones is an archaeologist who lives and works in Orkney. This article is taken from The Scotsman.com online newspaper.]

Scots Humor

Scotsmen hate to see waste, no matter where it is. So when Jock saw the Niagara Falls for the first time he said it was a waste of water, and a plumber in Dundee could fix them in half an hour.

A Scottish prayer - "Oh Lord, we do not ask you to give us wealth. But show us where it is!"

When a bus company was prevailed upon to increase the concessionary fare to frequent travellers so that they got six journeys instead of four for a pound, one elderly gentleman, renowned for his

frugality, even in a community where frugal folk are common, was still unhappy. "It's all dam' foolishness," he declared. "Now we've got to walk to town six times instead of four times to save a pound!"

McNab had become a bit hard of hearing but he didn't want to pay for a hearing aid. So bought a piece of flex, put one end in his top pocket and the other end in his ear. It didn't help his hearing but he found that people spoke to him more loudly.

McTavish took his girlfriend out for the evening. They returned to her flat just before midnight and as she kissed him goodnight she said: "Be careful on your way home. I'd hate anyone to rob you of all the money you've saved this evening."

MacDonald was awarded 10,000 pounds for injuries received after a traffic accident and his wife got 2,000 pounds. A friend asked how badly injured his wife had been in the accident. MacDonald replied "Och, she wasn't injured but I had the presence of

mind to kick her in the leg before the police arrived."

"Sandy suggested a candlelit dinner last night," Jessie reported to her friend the next day. "That was dead romantic," said her friend. "Not really. It just saved him having to fix the fuse."

It is rumored the entire population of Aberdeen took to the streets holding an empty glass when the weather forecaster said there would be a nip in the air.

A visitor to an Aberdeen bar was surprised to find the beer only two pence a pint. The barman explained that it was the price to mark the centenary of the pub opening. The visitor noticed, however, that the bar was empty. "Are the regular customers not enjoying the special prices?" he asked. To which the barman replied "They're waiting for the Happy Hour"

Congratulations

Hayley Hannah Burke was born May 5, 2005. Clan members Vincent and Dorothy Paul of Santa Rosa, Calif., are the proud great grandparents.



RampantScotland.com

Scots in History

Macbeth



Cawdor Castle near Nairn, has been linked by many to the events in Macbeth.

It is hard to think of anyone who has had a worse press than the much-maligned anti-hero of the "Scottish Play." Shakespeare's Macbeth was a no-good murderer who killed the good and fair King Duncan, but received his comeuppance in the end.

Shakespeare probably sourced his play from the 16th century chronicler Raphael Holinshed, and the story is loosely based on truth. But, to put it mildly, Shakespeare took liberties.

For a king to be murdered was not uncommon at the time of Macbeth. Ascension to the throne was complex, as leaders were chosen according to the ancient practice of tanistry. Instead of a simple hereditary line to decide succession, tanistry encouraged many claimants to the throne who had a right by blood or marriage. This invariably led to a jockeying for position, and it was not unusual for kings or other claimants to die young.

House of Malcolm

Macbeth was Thane of Ross by birth and Thane of Moray through his marriage to

Lady Gruoch, which under the system, gave him as much claim to the throne of Scotland as King Duncan I.

The Duncan of Shakespeare's play was an elderly wise king, but this too is misleading. Duncan was young, had only ruled for six years and was a weak, arrogant monarch. When Macbeth de-feated him in battle and assumed the throne, it was generally regarded as a good thing.

Furthermore, having gained power he is commonly thought to have ruled well. His 17 years as king brought peace and unity to Scotland, so much so that in 1050 he was able to make a pilgrimage to Rome.

But trouble was never too far away with Duncan's two sons waiting in the wings. Donal was brought up in the Hebrides and did not pose much of a threat, but on his father's death, Malcolm had escaped to Cumberland where he was brought up by English relatives.

A number of attempts were made by Malcolm's supporters to put him on the Scottish throne. Sward, the powerful Earl of Northumberland and a relation of Malcolm, led an army into Scotland in 1054. They marched as far north as Dunsinane in Perthshire and engaged Macbeth in furious battle. Thousands of

Scots died, and Macbeth was forced to retreat further north to Moray. Two years later Malcolm led another army into Scotland and met

with Macbeth at Lumphanan, Aberdeenshire, in 1056.

Macbeth was mortally wounded in battle - not necessarily by Macduff - and died a few days later. His stepson Luach ruled for a year until he too was killed by Malcolm in Essie in Strathbogie, Aberdeenshire.

Some historians believe that if Macbeth had not died and Malcolm III not become king, Scotland may have remained a separate nation to this day ... and might even have conquered England. [by Diane MacLean, *The Scotsman.com*]

To save a tree...

Clan Hannay
News

is coming soon to
our CHSW website!

Send us your email address
& you'll never have
to worry about missing
another issue!

email Gigi Hanna at
gigi@clanhannay.us



To read this issue of
Clan Hannay News
online, go to

<http://www.electricscotland.com/familytree/newsletters/hannay/2005f.htm>

Our thanks to Alastair McIntyre for
posting our newsletter on his website.

Be sure to visit
the Highland
Games
& Clan
Gatherings
in your
area!



~ Highland Games 2006 ~

Arizona

May 13
Prescott Highland Games
Watson Lake, Prescott, AZ
www.prescottarecelticsociety.com

July 15-16
Arizona Highland Celtic Festival
Flagstaff, AZ - 928-556-3161

November
Tucson Celtic Festival
Tucson, AZ - 520-888-1058

California

March 25
Camp Verde Highland Games
Camp Verde, AZ - 928-567-0535

April 1
Kern County Scottish Society's Scottish Gathering & Games
Stramler Park, 3907 Chester Ave., Bakersfield, CA

April 29-30
Sacramento Valley Scottish Games & Gathering
Yolo County Fairgrounds, Woodland, CA - 916-557-0764

May 20-21
Livermore Scottish Games & Celtic Festival
Robertson Park, Livermore, CA - www.livermoregames.com

May 27-28
United Scottish Soc. of So. California Scottish Festival
Los Angeles Fairplex, Pomona, CA

May 27-29
United Scottish Societies Festival
Costa Mesa, CA - unitedscottish@yahoo.com

June 3
Modesto Highland Games
Tuolumne River Regional Park, Modesto, CA - 209-538-0821

June 17
Campbell Highland Games & Celtic Gathering
Campbell Community Center, Campbell, CA
408.219.9264 - info@campbellgames.com

June 24-25
San Diego Scottish Highland Games
Brenkle Terrace Park, Vista, CA

August 5-6
Monterey Highland Games & Celtic Festival
Del Rey Oaks, CA

September 3-4
Pleasanton Scottish Games & Gathering
Pleasanton, CA

September 24
Dixon Scottish Highland Games
Dixon May Fairgrounds, Dixon, CA

October 7-8
Seaside Highland Games
Seaside Park, Ventura, CA - <http://seaside-games.com>

Oregon

April 8
Oregon Scottish Heritage Festival
Lin County Fair & Expo, Salem, OR - www.oregonscottish.org

May 20
Eugene Scottish Festival
3060 River Road, Eugene, OR - 541-688-2218

July 15-16
Portland Scottish Highland Games
Mount Hood Community College, Gresham, OR - www.phga.org/

August 12-13
High Desert Celtic Festival and Highland Games
Stevenson Horse Ranch, Bend, OR - <http://www.hdcs.net/>

August 19-20
Douglas County Celtic Highland Games
City Park, Winston, OR - www.fergus.org/

August 26-27
Sweet Home Celtic Festival & Highland Games
Sweet Home, OR
Greg Downs, 1079 38th Avenue, Sweet Home, OR 97386

Washington

April 6
Washington State National Tartan Day
Western Washington Fairgrounds, Puyallup, WA
www.tartandaywashington.org/

June 3-4
Bellingham/Whatcom County Highland Games
Hovander Homestead Park, Ferndale, WA
www.bellinghamhighland.org - Phone/Fax - 360-647-8500

June 16
Prosser Scottish Fest & Highland Games
Port of Benton Wine & Food Park, Prosser, WA
http://www.prosserchamber.org/scottish_games.htm

June 23-24
Tacoma Highland Games
Frontier Park, Graham, WA - <http://www.tacomagames.org/>

July 29-30
Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games
King County Fairgrounds, Enumclaw, WA

August 5
Spokane Highland Games
Spokane County Fair and Expo Center, Spokane, WA
TinkaSHGames@aol.com

August 12-13
Whidbey Island Highland Games
Greenbank, WA - <http://www.wihg.org/>

August 19-20
Ft Vancouver Caledonian Gathering, Games, Faire & Festival
Orchards, WA

September 9-10
Kelso Scottish Festival & Games
Downtown Kelso, WA