I’m going to start out with – Do you know how hard it is to write something when you really haven’t done anything “Scottish” since March of 2020?

That said, behind the scenes we’ve been working on plans for the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games – only to have them changed, and rightly so, due to ever-present COVID concerns. With the reduced numbers coming to the games this year – it just didn’t make sense to carry on with the formal banquet. Guess the Grandfather Mountain committee felt the same way as they canceled the Patron/Sponsor get-together scheduled for Friday night. This year’s Grandfather Mountain Highland Games will probably have a smaller turnout, but my family will be there. Granted we were going anyway since they rolled over our house reservation from last year but wouldn’t do it again. Too cheap to lose the cost of a house for a week.

Fortunately, out of the blue we were contacted and asked if we would like to be the Honored Clan at the Scotland County Games in Laurinburg, North Carolina, which the board unanimously accepted. Fortunately, it’s a little later in the year, October 2, and maybe – just maybe – things will be better by then. If you have never been, these one-day games are excellent, and they are rolling out the red carpet for Clan MacInnes as well as N.C. state Senator Tom McInnis who will be the honored guest. With all the MacInnes’ living in the area it should be a great turnout. I, for one, am looking forward to going back to the area where my ancestors originally settled when they left Jura.

There is plenty more information in both this newsletter and the E-blast you received from Steve/Donna several days ago on both events. However, if you have any questions at all, please let us know. If you are planning on attending our Friday night picnic at Grandfather – please make your reservations as soon as possible.

Finally, I think COVID was only a small part of what closed down all the Highland games this past year. I think it was the fault of Malcolm, my son Scot and myself that the games were shut down. We each had worked for years to obtain our arms - and once we did – the first thing we did was go out and buy our personal Pennons to fly over the tents and our personal flags to carry proudly in the parades. I’ve been staring at both for over a year now – and still haven’t had the opportunity to fly either.

Continued on page 3
There were several pictures of Pentland Hills southeast of Edinburgh with the blooming of the heather. Looks like most were taken in one spectacular season. It was hard to find credits, but this one comes from a Study Abroad website of all places. [https://www.studyabroad.com/in-scotland/summer](https://www.studyabroad.com/in-scotland/summer)

There were other Pentland Hills on Pinterest, some with images flipped in reverse. [https://www.pinterest.com/pin/AQ0FN8vtDy7VfqcjEA_N0uDgkCF1XSGmsDmT92gRN8RTVTQbaWh1ys/](https://www.pinterest.com/pin/AQ0FN8vtDy7VfqcjEA_N0uDgkCF1XSGmsDmT92gRN8RTVTQbaWh1ys/)

Guess that ole’ saying is true: “If you want to hear God laugh, tell him your plans!” It scares me to death when I think to myself: God, I hope my kilt still fits! So far, no snickers.

See you soon.
Until Grandfather - Yours Aye,

Kenneth McInnis

News from Members

LEFT: Michael McGinnis and his 5 grandsons all wore green to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and their Scots-Irish heritage at the North Carolina History Museum in Raleigh, NC. From left, Simon, Elias, grandpa Michael, Gavin, Evan and Beckett.

RIGHT: Marti McInnes, long standing member of Clan MacInnes, celebrated her 90th birthday April 30th with her daughter and their families in upstate Washington.

Get your shot now and be safe at the games!

Editor’s Note: Steve & Donna McKinnis, Co-Editors
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Clan MacInnes Chosen Honored Clan for Laurinburg, North Carolina Games
Come join the fun!

The pandemic has showed us that changes can happen at the drop of a hat. Well, Clan MacInnes is announcing an exciting tip of the hat and one “drop”.

The exciting announcement first! Clan MacInnes has been chosen as the “Honored Clan” for the 2021 Scotland County Highland Games in Laurinburg, NC on Saturday, October 2.
Our own N.C. state Senator Tom McInnis will be the “2021 Honored Games Guest.” These developments prompted our IACM Board to change the 2021 Annual General Meeting site from Grandfather to Laurinburg. The Scotland County Games (SCHG) has given us two clan tents, and a casual AGM meeting will be held in our clan tent on Saturday afternoon.

These games offer an opportunity to meet many MacInneses in the region since numerous families from the Isle of Skye, Appin and Argyll left Scotland and settled there.

This event has become one of the most popular on the Southern Highland Games circuit – one of the largest tourist attractions in the region. These games will include:
• Scottish and Celtic entertainers
• Traditional Scottish athletics
• Pipe bands plus solo pipers and drummers in EUSPBA-sanctioned competition
• Highland Dance competition
• An open "jam session" for Celtic musicians
• Scottish fiddle and harp demonstrations and workshops
• Children’s games
• Last but never least, Scottish and local foods, plus Scottish and Celtic vendors.

The Scotland County Games also features Sponsors & Patrons Reception Friday evening and possibly a Friday afternoon whisky tasting. Advance ticket sales will begin shortly this May, including a combination pass for games tickets, parking, and the patron reception. For more information, see: http://www.carolina-highlandgames.com.

Don’t Miss Tourist Highlight:
The John Blue House & Heritage Center in Laurinburg is a unique complex offering a glimpse into the history and life of the rural Carolinas. John Blue Sr. built the house in 1895, designed after the riverboats he saw while visiting Mississippi. Today it is considered a fine example of “Steamboat Architecture” and is listed on the National Register of Historical Places. This house has 12 rooms, each with its own exterior door lit with stained glass, 9 fireplaces and rare double circular porches. The grounds include 3 authentic log cabins, tobacco barn, restored pre-Civil War cotton gin, and restored country store. The museum offers John Blue’s inventions, “hit & miss” engines and other farm vehicles, antique autos, historic household appliances and a retired locomotive engine. The adjacent Indian Museum of the Carolinas showcases 45 regional Native American cultures.

Location, Hotel & Airport Information
Games Location: southern North Carolina, southwest of Fayetteville, near the South Carolina line.
Laurinburg Hotels: Comfort Inn, Hampton Inn, Holiday Inn Express, Quality Inn
Area Airports: Raleigh-Durham, 85 mi.; Charlotte Douglas, 89 mi.; Greensboro Piedmont, 95.4 mi.; Fayetteville Regional, 36.3 mi.
The “Drop” – slight change to 2021 Grandfather Games

We have canceled the Saturday night AGM banquet July 10 at the Grandfather Games due to low response, COVID concern and increased ballroom rental charges. The Clan MacInnes highlight for the weekend will be the Friday night picnic July 9 at a county park near the games. See the order form for details and reservation below.

The GMHG 2021 Games will still include the Thursday night Torchlight ceremony, Saturday and Sunday games events, and the Sunday noon Parade of Clans. Note, however, that GMHG has canceled its Friday night patron party, sheepherding event, and some of the Highland dance competitions. Clan MacInnes will host its tent as usual –and don’t miss our FIRE SALE of Clan merchandise.

Hotel accommodations at the Best Western in Banner Elk are still available with the 30% discount “Clan MacInnes Rate” until June 8 for double or king room. The discount rate includes a hot buffet breakfast and tax: $150 for Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, $84.99 for Sunday night.

Contact the hotel direct at 828-898-4571.

**Potluck Picnic in the Park Friday Night**

Join old friends and meet new ones at this casual event, held in a park pavilion and outdoors for comradery with safety and distancing. The picnic Friday, July 9, starts at 6:30 pm.

The picnic menu will be combo platters of Subway sandwiches, mixed greens salad, and an assortment of home-baked cookies. The price per person is $8 for adults and $4 for children over ten, plus bringing one potluck item. Children under six are free.

Potluck choices will include bottled water, soft drinks, iced tea, chips or other snack, paper plates, forks, and ice. Potluck signups will be done by email after your reservation form and payment have been received.

**RESERVATION FORM: POTLUCK PICNIC ON FRIDAY, JULY 9**

Name ______________________________________________________________________________

_________ Number of adult tickets @ $8 each

_________ Number of child meals (under 10 years old) @ $4 each

_________ Vegetarian/special needs meal by advance request, same prices as above

_________ TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED. **This form and payment must arrive by June 28.**

Mail to: Treasurer John McInnis, 114 Millington Trail, Mansfield, TX 76063
To see the full edition, please join our association.

https://macinnes.org/joinmw/jnmw_join.html#join