



## President's Corner, Summer 2022

In the last newsletter, we talked some about the piping and drumming competitions held at highland games and what the judges look for. In this newsletter, you will find information about the athletic competitions (on page 6). Hope you are able to get out to a games near you and enjoy watching some of the athletics.



To raise money and keep our annual dues low, our Society branch usually sells small items related to the clan at all of the games we attend. These items are becoming very expensive and difficult to find. In the past, we have been able to purchase items from the Clan store in Bruar Falls, but these items are no longer available.

We are having to depend more and more on the members' dues to fund our various games and charitable contributions. I can assure you that your Board of Directors and Officers are very frugal and judicious with these funds, which are put to good use. I would like to strongly encourage those of you who have not yet renewed your membership for 2022 to please do so.

*David Robertson, CDSTI President*

## Editor's Note

Your Clan Society Officers have been busy attending games around our branch area (the state of Texas) and have much to report. Hang onto your kilts and get ready for a whirlwind tour of Texas Clan Country.

We start with the Sherman Celtic Festival and Highland Games, where the president charged the editor with taking photos. See Jack Robertson's writeup on page 2 and my "report" in the pictures that follow.

*Paula Robertson, Tejas Journal Editor*



*Richard Roberson, Jack Robertson,  
David Roberson, Sarah Roberson*



## *Sherman Multiplex United Pipe Band leads the Grand Opening March*

### Sherman

The 2022 Sherman Celtic Festival and Highland Games were held March 19–20, back on their Spring schedule. Clan Donnachaidh had a prime spot—20 feet from the whiskey tasting. Foot traffic was brisk.

We were also adjacent to the Choctaw Nation contingent who entertained all day. Not much Scottish in their dance moves, but nonetheless educational. Food trucks were abundant, but so were long lines for service. For the next event, we promised to choose meal time more carefully.



*Jack Robertson and Richard Roberson  
ready for the Grand Opening March*

As is her habit, Janis took care of welcomes and product sales. At the end of the day, the games organizers sent a team of strong, young volunteers to help break down the tent and materials and pack it away the distance to Richard's truck. We were thankful for their assistance.

*Jack Robertson*



*Pipe Band Drum Corps*





*Jack Robertson and Richard Roberson represent Clan Donnachaidh in the Grand Opening March at Sherman*



*Sheep Herding Demonstration*

*Choctaw Social Dance Exhibition*





## Where Is Dave?

On the next few pages, President Dave Robertson reports on clan events he and other Board Members attended in the following cities:

- San Antonio: See below.
- Houston: See page 2.
- Decatur: See page 3.
- Salado: See page 5.

### San Antonio

For the first time in three years, the San Antonio Highland Games resumed at the Helotes fairground on Saturday and Sunday, April 2 and 3. Betty and Dave Robertson set up the tent on Friday night, and the entire Bill Jones family helped at the tent Saturday and Sunday. Bill's sister, Lavinia Jones Straka, was visiting from California with her son. It was nice to meet them and get to know Clan Donnachaidh relatives from California.



*Lilliah Jones shows off her dance competition ribbons at the clan tent*



*Tucker Reid, friend, Everly Reid, Lilliah Jones*

The games were well attended on Saturday but a little slow on Sunday. There were athletic and dance competitions. Lilliah Jones, Bill and Donna's 7-year-old granddaughter, competed in her first ever Scottish Dance competition in the Beginner Class. She won 4th place in the Highland Fling and 6th in the Sword Dance. Her friend in the Reid family also did well.



## Houston

The Houston Highland Games and Festival were held on Saturday, April 9. The organizers seem to be struggling to get enough support to have a two-day event. Also, the timing is the weekend after the San Antonio games.

I set the tent up on Friday and was hoping to have Micah and Alexandra Robertson join me from Pearland, but they both tested positive for COVID a few days before. The games were only lightly attended, but it gave me time to visit with folks that stopped by. Jim Robertson of Houston sat and chatted for quite a while. It is always enlightening to learn what clan members are doing.

## Decatur

The 36th annual Texas Scottish Festival and Highland Games were held in Decatur, Texas on May 7 and 8. The organizers are still struggling with the placement of the clan tents. We continue to recommend that they intersperse the vendors and the clans.

Janis and Richard Roberson and Dave Robertson set up the tent on Friday, May 6, with help from Chuck Wymore. Chuck and Valerie joined us on



*Warren Robinson and Family*

Saturday and Sunday and helped Janis and Richard take the tent down on Sunday. The games were well attended on Saturday but lightly attended on Sunday, Mother's Day.

Fifteen visitors signed the log at the tent on Saturday. It is always fun to talk to folks from different parts of the state. Donovan Roberson from Weatherford spent a good deal of time visiting. We even had some visitors from Oklahoma.

Sunday we had 10 visitors sign in, one of which was Warren Robinson from Fort Worth. We had a real good visit with the entire family.

## Salado



*Richard and Janis Roberson, Jack Robertson, Dave Robertson, Susan Robertson, Sarah Harriman, Betty Robertson, Ruth and Joe Dahlstrom*

On May 10, a group of Texas Donnachaidhs held a farewell lunch for Sarah Harriman at the Stagecoach Restaurant in Salado. Over many years, Sarah and her late husband, Louis "Torf" Torfason, were hosts to many events in Austin, typically a Hogmanay pot luck lunch on New Years Day and a Robert Burns supper at the end of January. Sarah is moving to Virginia to be closer to family. We will miss her but hope to stay in touch.



## Grapevine

The Grapevine Lake Celtic Heritage Festival and Highland Games were held on Saturday, April 9 by the lake at Meadowmere Park. Richard and Janis Roberson set up the clan tent, and Paula Robertson arrived later to lend moral support. The event was smaller than some, but all clans, vendors, and performers formed a nice circle around the competition field in view of the lake.

## Scottish Highland Games Heavy Athletics Competitions

The origins of the Scottish Heavy Athletic events are no longer known, but are almost certainly from the times when Clan Chiefs would use such events to find the best men for their armies. The first organized highland games were sponsored by King Malcolm III at Braemar in 1057. During the 1800s, new types of highland games were organized as purely sporting events.

The **caber** (Gaelic for tree or rafter) **toss** is not a distance competition, but rather a test of accuracy. The objective of the caber toss is for the competitor to stand the caber on end, pick it up, hold it steady in the vertical position for several seconds, then toss it end over end (known as *turning*), and have the end that they originally held come to rest pointing away from the thrower in as straight a line as possible. In a perfect throw, the held end finishes in the 12 o'clock position with the thrower in the 6 o'clock position. A perfect score is indicated when the judge raises their hands above their head.

Competition cabers range between 15 and 20 feet and weigh from 70 to 130 pounds. In many competitions, the athlete must successfully turn cabers of several sizes and weights before they can advance to the next size.



*Art Busbey and Richard Roberson prepare to represent Clan Donnachaidh in Grapevine Opening Ceremony*

There are two **stone throw** competitions.

- The challenge of the **Braemar style** is that the stone weighs 23+ pounds and is thrown from a standing position.
- The **open style** of putting the stone is similar to modern shot put, except that the stone is smooth and weighs 17 pounds. The athlete is allowed a 7'6" run before releasing the stone.

**Weight throws for distance** use three weights: 28, 42, and 56 pounds. Distance throws are measured from the back of the "trig," a wooden toe board, which the athlete may not cross. Athletes spin in a fashion similar to a discus thrower before releasing the weight. The weights themselves are blocks of stone or metal cylinders with a handle attached.

The **weight toss for height** uses a crossbar similar to a high jump. The competitors use 42- and 56-pound weights, stand with their back to the crossbar, swing the weight between their legs, and toss it backwards up over the bar. The bar is raised until only one athlete can toss it to that height.

**Scottish hammer toss** is similar to modern hammer toss, except that it uses a wooden or PVC handle instead of a chain. Hammers weigh 16 and 22 pounds. The competitor stands with their back to the trig, swings the hammer in a wide circle, and releases it over their shoulder.

A *sheaf* is a burlap bag stuffed with straw (or similar material) weighing 16 and 20 pounds. The **sheaf toss** consists of the athlete using a two- or three-tined pitchfork to toss the sheaf over a crossbar. The competition ends when only one competitor can toss it over the height of the bar.

*Compiled by Dave Robertson*

## Welcome CDSTI New Members!

We are pleased and honored to welcome the following new members to our society branch for 2022:

*Susan Bremner • Irene Johnson • Donovan Roberson*

*James and Julie Hoyle*

*Please contact the newsletter editor with omissions or corrections.*



## CDSTI 2022 Board of Directors

<i>Officers</i>	<i>Directors</i>	
Dave Robertson, <i>President</i>	Bill Jones, <i>Clan Piper</i>	Mike Hartzell
Frank Woodall, <i>Vice President</i>	James Jones, <i>Membership</i>	Kathy Johnson
Valerie Wymore, <i>Secretary</i>	Richard Roberson, <i>Genealogy</i>	Jack Robertson
Janis Roberson, <i>Treasurer</i>	Paula Robertson, <i>Newsletter</i>	Micah Robertson

## Remaining 2022 Festivals/Games in Texas

For venue information and directions, go to the respective website.

<b>October 8</b>	Kerr County Celtic Festival and Scottish Highland Games	Ingram	kerrcountyceltic.com
<b>November 12–13</b>	Central Texas Scottish Gathering and Highland Games	Salado	saladomuseum.org

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Newsletter design, layout, and editing *FineLines*

[cdstitejasjournal@gmail.com](mailto:cdstitejasjournal@gmail.com)