

US \$10.00

VOLUME 25 NUMBER 1



# Scorrybreac

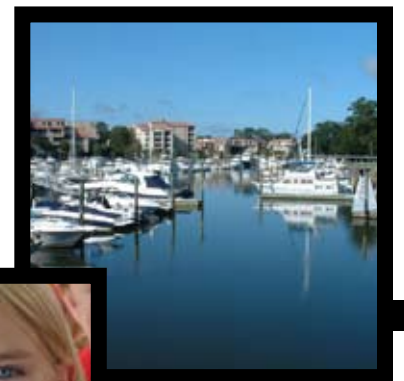
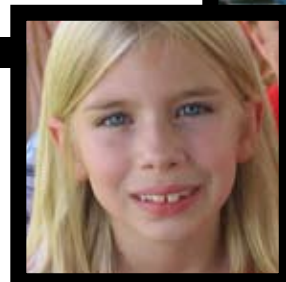
April 2009



The Journal of Clan MacNicol  
of North America



*Getting into the "swirl of the kilt", our Clan Chief Scorrybreac from Australia and Mary Jean Nicolson from Toronto dance a Strip the Willow at the 2008 Clan Ceilidh in Portree, Isle of Skye, Scotland*



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#### Late News - Harman Nicholson of Balvenie

As we were preparing this newsletter, we were sad to hear of the death on 24 April 2009 at the age of 88 of Harman Nicholson of Balvenie, uncle to the Clan President Jeremy Nicholson. Harman was an invaluable friend of the Clan MacNicol societies around the world, and we owe much to his encouragement in laying the foundations for a strong and energetic Clan. In the next issue we will tell more about Harman and the work he did, but in the meantime we wish to send our condolences and love to Jeremy and his family at this sad time.



# FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Spring is upon us, and it could not have arrived too soon, what with late winter storms, floods, economic turbulence, and widespread uncertainty and anxiety.*

Notwithstanding these troubles, your Clan Society has worked hard to bring about a variety of group events for the next six months.

Foremost, many thanks to our Clan Society Secretary, Bill Nicol, who has organized a North American Gathering to be held on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, during the Columbus Day (Canadian Thanksgiving Day) Weekend in October.

We haven't had a full North American Gathering in several years – to be precise, not since the wonderful 2006 bilingual event in Montreal which Jacques McNicoll ran so effectively. It will be fun to enjoy a long group weekend at one of the premier U.S. resorts – at a reasonably price, in line with our habitual Scottish thrift.

Two other major events are in the cards this year. First, the huge rassemblement of the Quebec McNicolls at the Canyon-Sainte-Anne near Beaupré on Saturday, June 20, organized

by Guy Mc Nicoll with at least four hundred people in attendance, including several Society Directors and Officers. Secondly, the Scotland Homecoming 2009 Parade on Saturday, July 25 where Murray Nicolson, acting on behalf of our Chief, will lead a Clan delegation up the Royal Mile to the Castle in central Edinburgh.

We are also planning to staff Clan tents at several Highland games and Scottish festivals in



Andrew Nicoll with Jeremy in the Chamber of the Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh (March 2007)

Canada and the U.S. this year. The provinces and states involved so far are: Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario; Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Michigan, New Hampshire, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Utah, Washington (state), and Wyoming. Thanks to all our Games Commissioners whose hard work and dedication will make all this possible.

On a completely different subject, I would like to draw attention to the publication by Andrew Nicoll in Scotland of his first novel *The Good Mayor* (ISBN 978 1 84502 192 4; 340 pages - Black & White Publishing, Edinburgh 2008).

The political and parliamentary reporter for *The Sun* newspaper in Scotland during the last ten years, Andrew is a relative of Dale Nicoll from Concord, California. Andrew lives in Dundee and travels daily by rail to his office in the new Scottish Parliament. It was during an eighteen months period of commuting to work that he wrote *The Good Mayor*, which has received excellent critical reviews, not to mention commercial success.

To date the novel has been sold to seventeen nations and translated into thirteen languages. In addition to Scotland, it has been published by Harper Collins in Australia, and will be published in September 2009 by Bantam Dell in the United States.

(CONTINUES ON PAGE 20)

Jeremy with Esther Bremner, Custodian of Balvenie Castle, Dufftown, Banffshire, Scotland (October 2008)



**TWENTY-ONE** years after our first Clan Gathering on the Isle of Skye, we met again on October 1-4, 2008 for our quadrennial International Clan Gathering. It was a truly international group – in addition to 26 Clan members from the UK, there were 8 from Australia, 5 from New Zealand, 19 from the USA and 14 from Canada.

The weather – always a gamble on the Isle of Skye – was true to its tradition of fickleness. It was cloudy on Wednesday, rain-

Museum. That evening the party split into two groups – one joined Effie Nicolson and the Skye Country Dance group for a warm-up lesson before the next day's Ceilidh, while the others heard a talk from the Gaelic broadcaster and writer Cailean Maclean (son of the late co-author of the MacNicol history book, Dr. Alasdair Maclean).

On the Friday morning we had our annual

*The Wednesday hikers around Ben Chraicg: Back row: Carol Nicoll, Tom Pritchard, Mal and Jen Nicolson, Jenni Nicolson and Scorrybreac, Effie Nicolson, Don Nicolson, Murray Nicolson, Fiona Lundy and Brenda Pritchard. Front row: Mary Jean Nicolson, Barbara Nicolson, Charles and Joyce Nicholson Schofield, Judith Nicol, Lyn and Bruce Nicholson, Dick Nicol*



## Clan Gathering October 2008 Murray Nicolson

ing in buckets on Thursday, beautifully sunny on Friday and back to rain again on Saturday. We adapted the schedule to suit – the traditional long hike on the first day was shortened to a circuit around the Clan lands on Ben Chraicg. On Thursday's bus trip around Trotternish, we dashed in and out the bus at each stop for a thorough drenching and steam-off. We lunched at the Columba 1400 Conference Centre, and almost got swept off our feet at the wild north tip of the Trotternish peninsula at the Crofting

Clan meeting in the Cuillin Hills Hotel, chaired

by the Clan Chief John MacNeacail of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac. Then during the day small groups took boat trips out of Portree Bay for a completely new view of our Clan lands from the sea. In the evening we had our now traditional dinner and Ceilidh, with music and song – and some energetic dancing. At

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the dinner we had a presentation of the Nicolson Nose, another tradition that began in 2000 when Scorrybreac presented it to John Nicoll of Sydney NSW Australia. Since then it has been handed on from Clansman to Clansman (no women have so far) at our international gatherings. The last recipient in 2006 was Jack Nicholson in Dunedin, New Zealand, and he elected to pass the trophy on to Mal Nicolson of Sydney this year, to hold until our next gathering in 2010. Since Jack couldn't make the trip, it was brought from New Zealand by Lyn and Bruce Nicholson, and Mal had the onus of testing his baggage weight limits at the airport to take it back with him to Australia! The Nose has now crossed the Pacific Ocean four times.

Saturday morning dawned with pouring rain and howling winds. Fortunately these abated (just) in time for the ceremonial unveiling of the memorial plaque for the late Burke Nicholson of Balvenie. Chief Scorrybreac spoke movingly of Burke's long service to the Clan worldwide. Jeremy Nicholson thanked Scorrybreac on behalf of the Burke's family in Atlanta. He also expressed heartfelt gratitude to Harman Nicholson of Balvenie whose generosity made the memorial possible and to myself for the work I undertook in having the plaque made and the cairn erected.

After the unveiling, a hardy group of Clanspeople took a guided tour of the Clan lands with John Phillips, Senior Ranger on Skye, providing an informative and learned narration.

On Saturday evening, Jeremy hosted an informal dinner at the Portree Hotel adjacent to the central square for North American Clan Society officers, commissioners and their families, a jolly group of 16 people who spent the evening in the grand Clan tradition eating, chatting and laughing.

It now appears likely that the next International Gathering of the Clan will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada in early October 2010 – when we may see the Nicolson Nose make another trip across the Pacific to join us! 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿



Murray Nicolson, Cailean Maclean, Bob Nicol (Queensland), Scorrybreac and Aonghus MacNeacail (London) at Cailean's illustrated talk on Skye



Don and Elizabeth Nicolson with Scorrybreac give a grand display of the Clan tartan

Tom and Brenda Pritchard admire Mal Nicolson's award of the Nicolson Nose





*Perhaps a farming discussion between Jean Macnicol of Arrowtown, NZ and Sandy Nicolson of Perthshire, Scotland?*



*Tom and Brenda Pritchard (Knoxville, TN) and Stewart and Marie Nicholson (Brampton, Ont.) meet with Jeremy Nicolson of Perthshire, Scotland?*

*Ready for the Skye weather! – Dick Nicoll and Brenda Pritchard with the Clan lands of Ben Chraigaig behind*





*Down-under Clan members Mal Nicolson (Gynea, NSW), Lyn and Bruce Nicolson (Dunedin, NZ)*



*Fiona Lundy (Wanaka, NZ) and Barbara Nicolson (Concord, MA).*

*The dedication of the new memorial cairn on a rain-swept Ben Chraicg on Saturday morning*





Mary Jean Nicolson and her uncle Don Nicolson, with Ben Chraicig in the background

The North American contingent at its Saturday night dinner. (Standing) Randy Lawrence, Stuart and Bruce Goodburne, Elizabeth and Don Nicolson, Jeremy Nicholson, Marie and Stewart Nicholson, Dick Nicoll, Tom Pritchard and Ken Lawrence. (Sitting) Mary Lou Nicolson Klimek, Carol Nicoll, Brenda Pritchard and Mary Jean Nicolson.



# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

## APRIL 2009

Jeremy  
Nicholson

**D**URING THE LAST FIVE months, your Clan Society has received with gratitude a total of 13 new memberships: 5 from 3 Canadian provinces, and 8 from 7 U.S. states.

We welcome our new members and look forward to many years of a mutually satisfying and productive association.

It is our further pleasure to report that over the same period 26 membership renewals have arrived from 5 provinces in Canada, 1 from Germany, 1 from Italy, 1 from Scotland, and 61 from 22 states in the U.S. totaling 90.

We have been delighted to receive renewals from two members who belong to the "Class of 1986." They were among the first to join the

Clan Society in that year and have remained staunch supporters for two decades since. In alphabetical order by family name, they are: Ronald Stuart Goodburne (Alpena, MI), and Brock and Colleen Nicholson (Clayton, NC).

The following member purchased a gift membership in 2009 for a relative: Brenda Nicholson Pritchard (Knoxville, TN) for her brother Brock Nicholson. Thanks to Brenda for her thoughtfulness and generosity!

Four renewing members have earned a special mention of appreciation for their extra effort: David and Suzanne Nichol of Harbor City (CA) who paid for three years of membership (2008, 2009 and 2010) – tying the existing record of last year with Mike and Beverly Nichols of Aloha, OR, and Bob and Lisa Nichol of Wilmington, NC. Renewing for two years were: Michael and Kimberley Cook of Calgary, AB (2008-9), Ronald Stuart Goodburne of Alpena, MI (2008-9), and John and Penny Nicol Evans of Powell, TN (2008-9). Bravo and thanks!

Thirty members significantly helped the Clan Society by contributing a donation in addition their annual dues, with ten members exceeding the \$5 level. Thank you so much to each of you: these funds will be of greatly assist the Clan in its increased attendance at Scottish festivals and Highland games throughout North America!

Eighty-two members generously contributed to the Scorrybreac Fund for the maintenance of the Clan lands on Skye, including thirteen who exceeded the basic \$5 level. Ben Chracraig will continue to thrive thanks to these donations.

Many thanks again to all for your support: your interest and generosity keep the Clan Society going!

## 2009 Membership Renewal Invitation

Members who wish to renew for 2009 are invited to complete the separate renewal form which has been inserted for everybody in this issue.

If you have any question about your membership status, please contact me as soon as possible by e-mail at [clanmacnicolsociety@bsn1.net](mailto:clanmacnicolsociety@bsn1.net) or by phone at 770-650-0905 and I will be happy to assist you.

Please return the completed form by June 1, 2009 to the indicated address in the U.S. or Canada—as appropriate—with your check made out to "Clan MacNicol Society, Inc."



## NEW MEMBERS

(December 2008 through April 2009)

### CANADA

#### Manitoba

Randolph and Catherine McNicol..... Cartier

#### Ontario

Donald and Dorothy Eastop..... Cornwall

John and Marie Nichols .....Collingwood

#### Quebec

Francis McNicoll..... Ile Perrot

Kathy McNicoll ..... Montreal

### U.S.A.

#### Alabama

Jean Pitman Lisenby ..... Ozark

#### California

Chad McNicholas..... Carmichael

Luke Nicol..... Stockton

#### Florida

Kirk and Kate Albaugh..... New Port Richey

#### Indiana

Roger and Karen Wakeland ..... Columbia City

#### New York

Suzanne Nicholl and David Robertson..... Rochester

#### South Carolina

Richard and Mary Lou Dewar ..... Aiken

#### Utah

James and Jenny Nicholson..... Pleasant Grove

## 2008 AND 2009 RENEWING MEMBERS

(December 2008 through April 2009)

*An asterisk \* preceding your name means that you generously donated to the annual upkeep of the Clan Land on Skye, and a crosshatch # in the same position denotes that you made an extra gift to the Clan Society beyond your annual dues.*

*Those members who have gone the extra mile and joined the Friends of Scorrybreac Lands with a five-year commitment of support are gratefully identified by the designation FoSL at the end of their listing.*

### CANADA

#### Alberta

\*#Michael and Kimberley Cook ..... Calgary (2008-9) FoSL

\*#Stephen Hugh and Beverly Nichol ..... Calgary (2008)

\*David Nicol ..... Calgary (2009)

\*William and Kathleen Nicolson..... Calgary (2009)

\*#Mary Lou Nicolson Klimek .....Cochrane (2009) FoSL

\*#Ian and Margaret Nicolson..... Edmonton (2008)

#Michael and Karen Klimek..... Lloydminster (2008)

#### British Columbia

\*Erron Nicolson ..... Grand Forks (2008)

\*Brent Nicolson..... Kamloops (2008)

\*Fred Nicolson ..... Kamloops (2008)

\*Jean and Jennifer Nicolson-Church.....

..... Port Coquitlam (2008)

\*Hugh and Bonnie Nicholson..... Prince George (2008)

\*Paule McNicoll ..... Vancouver (2008)

\*Mike and Heather Siska ..... Victoria (2008-9)

### Ontario

\*Norman and Deborah Nicol..... Burlington (2008-9)

\*#Joyce Nicholson-Schofield .....Guelph (2009)

\*Donald and Elizabeth Nicolson.....Thornbury (2009) FoSL

\*Donald Hugh, Carol Ann Nicholson .....Thornbury (2008)

### Quebec

\*Jean and Andrew Carruthers ..... Beaconsfield (2008)

\*#Tony McNicoll .....Gatineau (2008)

\*Jacques and Sylvie McNicoll.....Ile Perrot (2008)

\*#Françoise McNicoll.....Montreal (2008)

\*Rachelle McNicoll-Bergeron .....Montreal (2008)

\*Guy and Carole McNicoll ..... St. Pie (2008)

### Prince Edward Island

\*#Ronald and Janet Nicholson.....Cornwall (2008)

\*Sandylee and David Nicholson-MacLure

.....Montague (2008)

\*Wilfred and Carol Nicholson.....Montague (2009) FoSL

### GERMANY

\*Karl and Gisela Stellmacher..... Nordenham (2009)

### ITALY

\*#Marilena Castenetto..... Cassacco (2009)

### SCOTLAND

\*Margaret and Ken Session..... Dufftown (2009)

### U.S.A.

#### Arizona

\*Ken E. Nicolls ..... Flagstaff (2008)

\*Kevan and Rosemarie Taylor-Perry ..... Flagstaff (2008)

\*#Bruce and Pauline McNichols ..... Green Valley (2008)

#### California

\*Garrett and Kathleen Nichols ..... Ben Lomond (2008)

\*Gordon and Priscilla Riess..... Beverly Hills (2009)

\*Dale and Marilyn Nicoll.....Concord (2009) FoSL

#David and Suzanne Nichol.....Harbor City (2008-10) FoSL

Paul Lindsay Marchant.....Lafayette (2008)

\*Walter William Nicholson..... Long Beach (2008)

\*David and Lana Nicol.....Orange (2008)

\*Beth and George Nicholas Popa III..... Poway (2008)

\*Virginia Woodis.....Pacifica (2008)

\*#Robert and Margaret Nickell..... San Diego (2008) FoSL

\*Malcolm and Irene Willis..... Westminster (2009)

\*N. Douglas and Mary Vandever ..... Woodland (2008)

\*#Shirlee MacPhee Weinmann..... Woodside (2008) FoSL

#### Colorado

\*#Karen and Blake Nicholson III..... Estes Park (2008-9)

\*Traci Nichols ..... Timnath (2008)

#### Florida

\*#Cliff Wolf and Claudia Finn..... Crestview (2008)

Emma Lou Weldon ..... Gainesville (2009)

\*#Samuel and Karla Nicholson..... Largo (2008)

\*Eddy and Faye West..... Tamarac (2009)

#### Georgia

\*#JoAnn and H. Burke Nicholson III..... Atlanta (2008)

\*#Jeremy Duncan Nicholson.....Atlanta (2009) FoSL

\*R. Burke and Kerri Nicholson..... Dunwoody (2008)

(MEMBERSHIP REPORT CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE)



**Hawaii**

Robert and Drucilla Gilroy ..... Kula (2008)

**Illinois**

\*#Diana and L. Dow Nichol III..... Glen Ellyn (2008)

\*Robert and Susan Harmon ..... Lincoln (2008)

\*Carl and Jane Nicoll Stover ..... Park Forest (2008)

**Indiana**

\*Diane K. Blaine.....Fort Wayne (2008) FoSL

**Iowa**

\*Harold and Rose Mary Nichols ..... Moorehead (2008)

**Massachusetts**

\*#Murray and Barbara Nicolson ..... Concord (2008-9) FoSL

\*#Dick and Carol Nicoll ..... Billerica MA (2008-9) FoSL

**Michigan**

\*#Ronald Stuart Goodburne ..... Alpena (2008-9)

\*David and Laurel Nicol ..... Big Rapids (2008)

Keith and Judith Roe..... Kalamazoo (2008)

**Missouri**

\*#Donald and Reta Nicholson ..... Columbia (2008)

**Montana**

\*Kenneth Marx and Cheryl Christopher ..... Helena (2008)

**North Carolina**

\*Brock and Colleen Nicholson..... Clayton (2009)

\*Anne Nicholson Crocker..... Concord (2008)

**Ohio**

\*#Cindy Nicol Hill ..... Cincinnati (2008)

**Oklahoma**

\*#Kenneth and Caroline Nicoles..... Norman (2008)

**Oregon**

\*Scott and Susan Nicholson ..... Albany (2008)

\*Louis and Sharon McNicoll..... Salem (2008)

**Pennsylvania**

\*John and Karen Myers..... Philadelphia (2009)

\*#Patricia and Jan Nicholson Jr. .... Sarver (2008)

**Tennessee**

\*#Thomas and Brenda Pritchard ..... Knoxville (2009)

\*Donald and Nancy Nicoll..... Manchester (2008)

\*Sandra Nichols Shassere..... Norris (2008)

\*John and Penny Nicol Evans..... Powell (2008-9)

**Texas**

\*#Olive H. Pearson ..... Fort Worth (2008)

\*Daniel and Susan Regalado..... Hurst (2008)

\*Thomas and Mary Nichols..... Livingston (2008) FoSL

\*David and Diane Marx ..... San Antonio (2008)

\*Leo and June Nicholson ..... Sugar Land (2008)

**Utah**

\*Kenneth and Tamara Lawrence ..... Clearfield (2009) FoSL

\*Michelle McNicoll Brinkerhoff ..... Grantsville (2008)

**Virginia**

\*#John E. Nichols ..... Fairfax (2008) FoSL

\*Daniel and Katherine Nickell..... Vienna (2009)

\*John W. and Sophie Nicholson ..... Williamsburg (2008)

**Washington**

\*#Bruce Craig McNichols ..... Kirkland (2008) FoSL

**Clan MacNicol Society  
TREASURERS REPORT FOR 2008**

*Dick Nicoll, Treasurer of Clan MacNicol Society, Inc.*

<b>INFLOWS</b>	
Donations	\$470.00
Annual Meeting Income	\$985.02
Bank Interest	\$10.37
Membership Income	\$4,192.96
Membership Certificates	\$50.00
Pass-thru - IN	\$770.00
<b>TOTAL INFLOWS</b>	<b>\$6,478.35</b>

<b>OUTFLOWS</b>	
Games Registrations	\$360.00
Membership Advertising	\$150.00
Newsletter	
Copying	\$2,975.23
Mailing	\$1,027.82
Related Cost	\$894.44
Banking Cost	
Foregin Check Fee	\$22.00
Annual Meeting Expenses	\$1,614.84
Legal Filing Fees	\$75.00
Office Costs for Postage	\$289.56
Pass-thru - OUT	\$770.00
<b>TOTAL OUTFLOWS</b>	<b>\$8,178.89</b>

<b>OVERALL CASH FLOW</b>	<b>-\$1,700.54</b>
Cash in Account 1/1/08	\$9,907.99
Cash in Account 12/31/08	\$8,207.45

*Note: The pass-thru items are donations to Scorrybreac Fund Inc. that members made along with their annual dues.*



**O**F THE THREE NAME GROUPS IN THE CLAN MacNicol Society (Nicol, Nicolson and MacNicol in all spellings), the MacNicolos are the smallest. We know the MacNicolos predominately inhabited Argyllshire in the west of Scotland, and have been associated with the Clan Campbell of Argyll – and in fact our Clan has from time to time been claimed as a sept of the Campbells for this reason. A recent pair of articles in the *Journal of the Clan Campbell Society* by Duncan Beaton (Winter 2007 and Winter 2008) sheds more light on our relationship with the Campbell country. After outlining our accepted origins in the Assynt district of the county of Sutherland in the 11th century leading to the main branch of the MacNicolos (Nicolsons) of Scorrybreck in Skye, Mr. Beaton’s research is into the “other branch of the MacNicolos”

a Captain Campbell, and sadly returned to his parish to compose a famous Gaelic poem of lost love *Mo shuil a’d dheidh* (“My eye is after you. Fare thee well love, I’m regretting your leaving”). However Captain Campbell was so over-bearing that the engagement was broken off, Liliias returned to the Rev. MacNicol, they married in 1771 and they went on to have 16 children. He was a prominent Gaelic scholar and collected the songs of the illiterate Gaelic poet Duncan ban Macintyre. He met Dr. Samuel Johnson during their tour of the Scottish Highlands and formed a great dislike of the man, detailed in a vituperative book that

# THE MACNICOLS OF ARGYLL

*articles by Duncan Beaton*


**a note from Murray Nicolson**

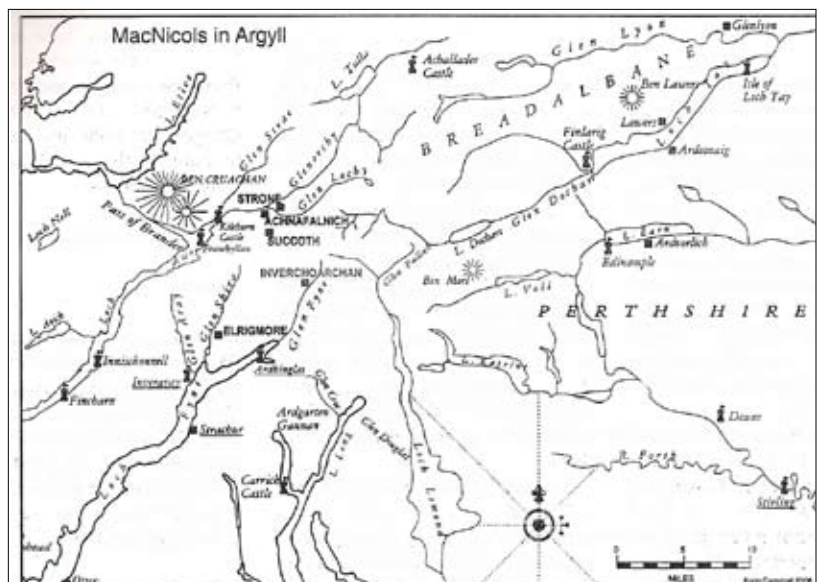
in Argyll and Perthshire, associated with the Campbells of Glenorchy. The map below (taken from Beaton’s first article) shows the part of Scotland he is studying. Inveraray, the seat of the Campbells near the head of Loch Fyne, is on the west of the map, with Glenorchy to the north leading into Loch Awe.

The article suggests three origins for the MacNicolos of Argyll, the first that they are just another part of the clan that migrated further south than the Skye Nicolsons and who retained the Gaelic form of the name, MacNeacail. The second origin might be from a Nicol MacDuffie or MacPhee, a man from Lochaber who settled in Glenorchy. The third origin might be from a younger son of the house of Campbell; a common forename amongst the Campbells is Colin, which is another form of Nicolas! Whatever the origin, the first written record of the ancestor of the two most prominent MacNicol families was a land charter in 1594 granted to a Patrick MacNicol. Patrick’s sons settled in Succoth and in Elrigmore, villages to the north of Inveraray. Through a study of many land records in the 17th and 18th centuries, the two articles then follow the descendants of the Succoth and Elrigmore MacNicolos, and include many anecdotes about the two families.

One is about the Reverend Donald MacNicol, son of Nicol MacNicol of Succoth, who was ordained into the Church of Scotland in 1763. At the age of 36 he proposed to 17-year-old Liliias Campbell of Achlian in Glenorchy. He was turned down in favour of

he wrote after their meeting.

The MacNicolos of Elrigmore were certainly attached to the name Nicol – there are six successive generations of Nicol MacNicol listed in their family tree, which must be a real headache for a genealogist to untangle! In conclusion, there is much detail in these articles about the individual families and anyone who would like to explore further should contact me at [m.nicolson@iee.org](mailto:m.nicolson@iee.org) and I can supply copies of Mr. Beaton’s two articles, which run to 16 pages in total. 



# 2009 NORTH AMERICAN CLAN GATHERING

FRIDAY TO MONDAY,  
OCTOBER 9 TO 12

HILTON HEAD ISLAND,  
SOUTH CAROLINA, U.S.A



Hosts Bill and Joan Nicol

Your Clan MacNicol Society announces with great pleasure that it will hold its 2009 North American Gathering along with the Annual Directors' Meeting on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, U.S.A. from Friday to Monday, October 9-12 (Columbus Day Weekend in the U.S., and Canadian Thanksgiving Day Weekend).

All members, families and friends are cordially invited to join the Society's Officers and Directors for an extended weekend of leisure activities,

sightseeing, socialising, entertainment, information sharing and dining.

Hilton Head Island, one of the premier seaside resorts on the U.S. East Coast, offers a host of leisure activities as well as touristic and gastronomic attractions. Bill and Joan Nicol have kindly volunteered to set up a full program for the long weekend. Projected events currently include:

*Friday evening*  
Informal dinner

*Saturday*  
Group leisure activities and meals

*Sunday*  
Directors' meeting, group leisure activities, and evening Ceilidh

*Monday*  
Optional group leisure activities and meals

Members should check the North American Clan Website [www.clanmacnicol.org](http://www.clanmacnicol.org) during the next couple of months for further details on activities.

Our most recent North American Gathering was held three years ago in Montreal in (August 2006). Previous gatherings took place in Chicago, Illinois (2005) and in Williamsburg, Virginia (2003) with great success and enthusiastic attendance.

The principal venue for the 2009 Gathering will be the Holiday Inn Oceanfront at 1 South Forest Beach Drive, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina 29928-6423, U.S.A.

Bill has reserved a block of non-smoking rooms (with either two double beds or one king bed) at the Holiday Inn for the rate of US\$99 per night plus 11% tax and a daily resort fee of US\$6.95 per room. These special rates can be extended to 2 days before the event (October 7 and 8) and 2 days afterwards (October 12 and 13).

Gathering participants must make their own reservations as soon as possible but absolutely no later than the deadline of September 1. Please contact the Holiday Inn Oceanfront Reservations Department directly by phone at 843-785-5126, or by fax at 843-785-7753. Callers must mention the Code **CMR** and group name **Clan MacNicol** to ensure that they receive the appropriate rate and are included in the guest room block attendance.

U.S. members should note the proximity of Hilton Head Island to several neighboring southern states. Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia are all within a day's driving distance. Hilton Head Island can be also reached by air, since it has


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its own airport which handles regional commuter flights. Alternatively, participants can fly to the closest major airport in Savannah, Georgia and drive the remaining 50 miles to Hilton Head.

For further information about the Gathering

(including accommodations) and to register your interest and attendance, please complete and mail by June 30 the enclosed Participation Form to Bill R. Nicoll, 4 Margarita Court, Hilton Head, SC 29926-1900. You may also e-mail Bill at [Secretary@ClanMacNicol.org](mailto:Secretary@ClanMacNicol.org) or phone him at 843-671-4721. 

Hilton Head Harbor



## LORD CARNOCK (1920-2008)

There was a recent announcement of the death on December 26, 2008 of David Henry Arthur Nicolson, the Lord Carnock, at the age of 88. Clan members will recall that in the early 1980s Lord Carnock was recognized as the Chief of the Clan Nicolson, resulting in a dispute at the Court of the Lord Lyon from our own Clan Chief that was resolved by our recognition as a separate Highland Clan MacNeacail, not connected with Clan Nicolson. To our knowledge, there never has been a Clan Nicolson society or other organization set up under the chiefship of Lord Carnock. At this time we don't know whether there will be a new Chief of this other clan, but the writer Adam Nicolson, nephew of Lord Carnock, will now inherit the title of Lord Carnock, the 5<sup>th</sup> Baron Carnock.



**ALBERTA (AND WESTERN CANADA)**

- Mary Lou Nicolson Klimek (Calgary)

**ARIZONA** – Kevan Taylor-Perry

(Flagstaff)

**AT LARGE** – Stewart and Marie Nicolson (Largo, Florida, and Brampton, Ontario)

**BRITISH COLUMBIA** - Jennifer Nicolson-Church (Port Coquitlam)

**CALIFORNIA** – Dale and Marilyn Nicoll (Concord)

**FLORIDA** – Cliff Wolf and Claudia Finn (Crestview)

**GEORGIA** – R. Burke and Kerri Nicolson (Dunwoody)

**ILLINOIS** – Chris and Judy Trenkle (Lombard)

**MICHIGAN** – Bruce Goodburne (Alpena)

**NEW HAMPSHIRE (AND NEW ENGLAND)** – Dick and Carol Nicoll (Billerica, Massachusetts)

**OHIO** – Craig and Barbara Nicol (Cleveland)

**OREGON** – Doc. Ed Nichol and Manena Nichol Taylor (Portland)

**ONTARIO** – Don Nicolson (Thornbury)

**SOUTH CAROLINA** – Bill R. and Joan Nicol (Hilton Head Island)

**TENNESSEE** – Tom and Brenda Nicolson Pritchard (Knoxville)

**TEXAS** – Carolyn Nichol-Williams (Garland)

**UTAH (AND WESTERN STATES)** – Ken and Tammy Lawrence (Clearfield)

**WASHINGTON STATE** – Bob and Elizabeth Nicolson (Seattle)

# STATE AND PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONERS

# 2009

As we approach the height of the Highland games and Scottish festivals season (late spring to early autumn), I thought it would be useful for the members of Clan MacNicol of North America to know who exactly are our active state and provincial Games Commissioners, see their pictures, and read a schedule of the events at which they'll be representing the Clan:

First, here are the names of Commissioners, arranged alphabetically by province and state:

**Jeremy Nicolson**

## SCHEDULE OF GAMES AND FESTIVALS WITH CLAN MACNICOL TENTS

Secondly, here is a schedule of games and festivals where the Clan plans to be represented at a tent or booth (with details in chronological order).

### JANUARY

**Saturday, 10 January:** Smoky Mountain Boy Scout Council Highland Games Jamboree in Knoxville, Tennessee – Tom and Brenda Nicolson Pritchard (event already held)

### APRIL

**Saturday, 4 April:** Dunedin Highland Games, Florida Stewart and Marie Nicolson (event already held)

**Saturday, 18 April:** Pensacola Highland Games, Florida – Cliff Wolf and Claudia Finn (event already held)

### MARCH

**Saturday, 14 March:** Panama City Highland Games, Florida – Cliff Wolf and Claudia Finn (event already held)

**Saturday and Sunday, 25-26 April:** Sacramento Valley Scottish Games & Festival, Woodland, California – Dale and Marilyn Nicoll (event already held)

MAY

**Saturday, 16 May:**  
Livermore Scottish Games & Celtic Festival, California – Dale and Marilyn Nicoll

**Saturday, 16 May:**  
Tallahassee Highland Games, Florida – Cliff Wolf and Claudia Finn (tentative)

**Saturday and Sunday, 16-17 May:** Gatlinburg Scottish Festival & Games, Tennessee – Tom and Brenda Nicholson Pritchard

**Saturday and Sunday, 23-24 May:** Alma Highlands Festival & Games, Michigan – Bruce Goodburne

JUNE

**Friday and Saturday, 5-6 June:** Greater Greenville Scottish Games & Highland Festival, South Carolina – Bill R. and Joan Nicol (tentative)

**Friday through Sunday, 5-7 June:** Texas Scottish Festival & Highland Games, South Carolina – Bill R. and Joan Nicol (tentative)

**Friday and Saturday, 12-13 June:** Utah Scottish Festival & Highland Games, Lehi – Ken and Tammy Lawrence

**Saturday, 13 June:** Georgetown Highland Games, Ontario – Don Nicolson with Hugh Nicholson

**Friday and Saturday, 19-20 June:** Illinois St. Andrew Society Highland Games,

Oak Brook – Chris and Judy Trenkle (tentative)

**Saturday, 27 June:** Ohio Scottish Games, Wellington – Craig and Barbara Nicol (tentative)

**Saturday, 27 June:** British Columbia Highland Games & Scottish Festival, Coquitlam – Jennifer Nicolson-Church (tentative)

JULY

**Friday and Saturday, 17-18 July:** Portland Highland Games, Gresham, Oregon – Doc. Ed Nichol and Manena Nichol Taylor (tentative)

**Saturday and Sunday, 18-19 July:** Arizona Highland Celtic Festival, Flagstaff – Kevan Taylor-Perry

**Saturday and Sunday, 25-26 July:** Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games, Enumclaw, Washington – Bruce Craig McNicholls (deputizing for Bob and Elizabeth Nicholson)

AUGUST

**Saturday and Sunday, 8-9 August:** Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games, Ontario – Don Nicolson with Hugh Nicholson and Stewart and Marie Nicholson

**Friday and Saturday, 14-15 August:** Jackson Hole Scottish Festival, Wyoming – Ken and Tammy Lawrence

SEPTEMBER

**Saturday, 5 September:** Calgary Highland Games, Alberta – Mary Lou Nicolson Klimek

**Sunday, 6 September:** Canmore Highland Games, Alberta – Mary Lou Nicolson Klimek

**Saturday and Sunday, 5-6 September:** San Francisco Highland Games, Pleasanton, California – Dale and Marilyn Nicoll

**Saturday and Sunday, 12-13 September:** Longs Peak Scottish/Irish Highland Festival, Estes Park, Colorado – Blake and Karen Nicholson (tentative)

**Saturday and Sunday, 19-20 September:** New Hampshire Highland Games, Lincoln – Dick and Carol Nicoll

**Saturday, 26 September:** Treasure Valley Festival, Boise, Idaho – Ken and Tammy Lawrence

**Saturday, 26 September:** Dandridge Scots-Irish Festival, Tennessee – Tom and Brenda Nicholson Pritchard

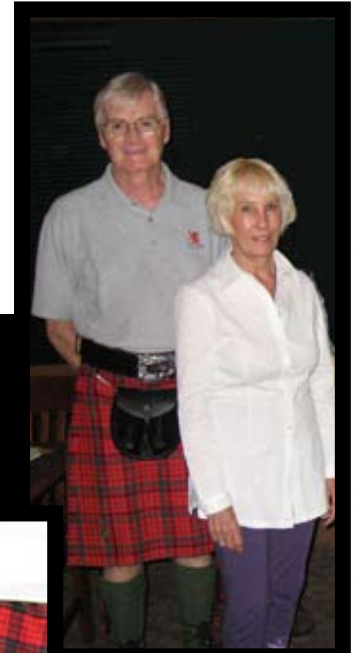
OCTOBER

**Saturday and Sunday, 10-11 October:** Seaside Highland Games, Ventura, California – Dale and Marilyn Nicoll (tentative)

**Saturday and Sunday, 17-18 October:** Stone Mountain Highland Games, Georgia – R. Burke and Kerri Nicholson



Dale and Marilyn Nicoll at Long Beach, CA in February 2007



Stewart and Marie Nicholson at Stone Mountain, GA in October 2007

Don Nicolson and Hugh Nicholson in Fergus, Ontario in August 2007



Elizabeth and Bob Nicholson with grandsons and Jeremy at Enumclaw, WA in July 2007

Bruce Goodburne in England in Fall, 2006



Claudia Finn and Cliff Wolf at Winter Spring, FL in January 2007



Carolyn Nichol-Williams and her grand-daughter in Arlington, TX in June 2007

Brenda and Tom Pritchard at Loch Norman, NC in April 2008

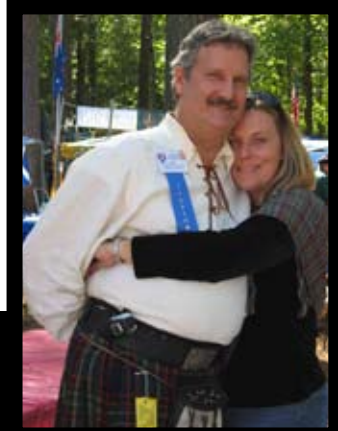


Dick and Carol Nicoll in Quebec in 2007





Chris and Judy Trenkle at Oak Brook, IL in June 2006



R. Burke and Kerri Nicholson at Stone Mountain, GA in October 2007

Kevan Taylor-Perry at Phoenix, AZ in February 2008



Mary Lou Nicholson Klimek at Fergus, Ontario in August 2007



Barbara and Craig Nicol with son Zachary in Wellington, OH in June 2007



Ken Lawrence and son Joshua in Phoenix, AZ in February 2008



Manena Nichol Taylor and Doc Ed Nichol in Gresham, OR in July 2008



Bill and Joan Nicol at Grandfather Mountain, NC in July 2007



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

Andrew was awarded the Saltire Prize for the First Book of the Year in 2009. He is already at work to complete a new novel

The next issue of *Scorrybreac* will feature a book review of *The Good Mayor* plus an interview of Andrew.

Finally, plans are afoot for the 2010 Clan MacNicol International Gathering. After the 2008 Gathering on Skye, it will be North America's turn to host the event. Mary Lou Nicolson Klimek, our Western Canada Commissioner, has generously offered to take on its organizational responsibility. We are planning to hold the Gathering in British Columbia, in or near Vancouver during the Columbus Day/Canadian Thanksgiving Day weekend in early October 2010. More details will be published in this newsletter, as well as posted on the North American website. We look forward to a great turn-out for the Gathering, our first large-scale event on Canada's spectacularly beautiful Pacific Coast.

As always, I invite any of you to contact me directly by phone, e-mail or letter about any Clan matter - check my masthead listing for ways to reach me.

Finally, I hope that many of you will be able to join our Games Commissioners at our Clan tents this spring, summer and fall in Canada and the U.S. You are assured of a warm kinship welcome, and a wonderful day of Scottish entertainment, athletics and food. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿



# ODE TO A FALLEN HAGGIS

(with apologies to Robert Burns)

We don't know the author of this cautionary poem, but anyone who has attended a Burns Supper knows the moment when, preceded by a bagpiper, the haggis is proudly borne into the room on a large trencher, or platter. But what the nervous bearer of the haggis also knows is that, hot and steaming, the haggis is treacherously slippery on its platter. And what is the reciter of Burns's Address to the Haggis to do if disaster happens?....

**G**REAT CHIEFTAIN, IT WAS APPEAR  
Ye've had some trouble getting here,  
An' I've nae doot you're feeling sair  
Efter yer contact with the flair -  
In which I fear ye cam' off worst,  
I see one o' your ends is burst.....

Although the poet said "Fair fa',"  
That wasna' what he meant at a',  
And when upon the flair ye duntit  
Yer 'Chef', puir man, was fair affronted;  
His face grew red as any beet  
When ye gaed slithering tae his feet.

The Ha' keeper breathed a silent prayer,  
An' thanked the Lord he'd swept the flair,  
While Robbie, in his Ayrshire tomb,  
Was nae doot birlin' roon' and roon'.

Ye cam' into that croodit ha',  
Held aloft "Abane them a',"  
Fu' o' steam an' Scottish pride,  
Lookin' rich an' dignified,  
An' then doon frae yer perch ye fell,  
While all the audience laughed like ....

For sic a superior kind of puddin'  
Yer doonfa' wis richt sair an' sudden,  
An' noo ye lie there in disgrace,  
Wi' shame upon yer "sonsie face".

Dae ye expect me tae address  
A haggis that's in sic a mess?  
For slidin' aff that groanin' trencher  
Ye've mair need o' a vote o' censure!