



Clan Hope Society Newsletter

Vol. 3, Number 1. January/February, 2012

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Happy Burns Night!

Your Clan At Work

Coming Events

If you are in the area where Clan Hope is sponsoring activities, please drop by and visit with us. Please extend this invitation to any Hopes or Hope Descendents in the area as well.

Clan Hope will participate in or/and sponsor clan tents at:

- January 14-15, 2012 Central Florida Scottish Highland Games, Central Winds Park, Winter Park, FL
 - January 28, 2012 Burns Night, Las Vegas, NV
 - February 4, 2012 Sarasota Highland Games & Celtic Festival, Sarasota County Fairgrounds, Sarasota, FL
 - February 25, 2012 Northeast Florida Scottish Games & Festival, Clay County Fairgrounds, Green Cove Springs, FL
 - March 24-25, 2012 Phoenix Highland Games & Festival, Steele Indian School Park, Phoenix, AZ
 - April 14-15, 2012 Las Vegas Celtic Gathering & Highland Games, Floyd Lamb Park, Tule Springs, NV
 - April 20-22, 2012, 19th Rural Hill Scottish Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games, Huntersville, NC
 - April 21, 2012 Dunedin Highland Games & Festival, Highlander Park, Dunedin, FL
 - May 4-6, 2012 Texas Scottish Festival, Maverick Stadium, Arlington, TX
 - June, 2012 Blairsville Scottish Festival & Highland Games, Blairsville, GA
 - June, 9-11 2012 Kansas City Scottish Festival, E.H. Young Park, Riverside, MO
 - July 12-15, 2012 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, Grandfather Mountain, Linville, NC.
 - July 14-15, 2012 Arizona Highland Celtic Festival, Foxglenn Park, Flagstaff, AZ
 - September, 2012 Oklahoma Scottish Festival, Riverwest Festival Park, Tulsa, OK
 - October 8-9, 2012 Seaside Highland Games, Seaside Park, Ventura County Fairgrounds, Ventura, CA
- A Few Recent Events**
Most events since the inception of Clan Hope, including photos, can be seen under "Activities, Completed" at www.clanhope.org
- Clan Hope Hosted Tents at:**
- October 14-16, 2011. Stone Mountain Highland Games, Stone Mountain Park, GA
 - September 16-17, 2011. Oklahoma Scottish Festival. Riverwest Festival Park, Tulsa, OK
 - September 30- October 1, 2011. Williamsburg Scottish Festival, Virginia Celtic Gathering and Highland Games. Rockahock Campgrounds, Lanexa, VA
 - July 7-10, 2011 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, Linville NC June 11-12, 2011 Blairsville Scottish Festival & Highland Games, Blairsville, GA
 - June, 10-12 2011 Kansas City Scottish Festival, Riverside, MO
 - June 3-5, 2011 Texas Scottish Festival, Arlington, TX

**Clan Hope of Craighall welcomes the following new member joining since the last newsletter:
Martha Hope Jenkins**

History of Highland Games' Unique Heavy Events

Caber Tossing, Shot Putt, Ball and Chain and Hammer Throwing Thrive

(With appreciation, from Suite101.com, Apr 5, 2010, by Margaret Woodward)

No Scottish summer is complete without Highland Games held in many small towns. They include not only piping, dancing and racing but also the heavy throwing competitions. The Highland Heavies fascinate everybody, both the events and the burly kilted chaps who take part in them. Wherever men congregate there is competition, frequently in endurance, strength, skill and dexterity. This has been the case throughout history and throughout the world. It is in the nature of the male animal.

Settling Disputes:

As with the famous Paleo horse-race in Siena, mediaeval Scottish authorities established games, jousts and tourneys to enable grievances between individuals or groups to be addressed without bloodshed, or, in one horrific 14th century case, to limit the bloodshed to those fighting on the field. Sir Walter Scott describes that day in *The Fair Maid of Perth*. Two groups of clans, under the composite names of Clan Chattan and Clan Kay, had feuded viciously for years, destroying the peace the king was trying to establish; the king commanded that each Clan choose thirteen representatives to line up and fight to the death.

Royal Mediaeval Beginnings

However, the earliest documentary mention of games being held in Scotland is in 1100 AD, under King Malcolm. In this instance, given the significant date, this occasion is assumed to be a celebration. No details are available but it would certainly have included running races, not only short speed events but also cross-country challenges. Hill running as a sport was established early, growing out of the need every clan had for messengers; these would often run barefoot for many miles in the course of their duties. Even when horses (or more likely, ponies) were available, side-runners would accompany them on trips through dangerous areas and these runners would take part in challenges, partly to hone their skills but partly for gain. To runners who were poor retainers of masters only a little less poor than themselves, a prize like a sword, belt, purse of gold or saddle offered by the nobleman sponsoring the games was a fortune. Competition would have been fierce. By tradition, winners of the most grueling race over heather was awarded a position as the King's Courier, tasked with bearing dispatches to and from the monarch wherever he may be, an honour much coveted. Heavy Throwing The most colourful events to survive into modern times evolved not from the knightly class, whose fighting and jousting died out long ago, but from the camaraderie around the blacksmith's forge, farm bothies (basic shelters) and mills. Today's main attractions are:

Shot Putt: derived from lobbing stones, usually rounded into spheres by riverwater, or cannon balls (especially popular with bothy lads). A putt is normally 16 lbs, but can be heavier. It is held in either hand and putted from the shoulder.

Hammer: probably began with the blacksmith's sledge-hammer. Its awkward head would have lead to an odd angle of landing. A broken shafted hammer (a cross-smith) with a round head gave a different result.. Shafts began as wooden, then led to chain and wire, which is swung in a circle for momentum. Again this is 16 lbs or more.

Ball and chain: a 28 lb ball thrown for distance by a chain with a handle, thrown either one handed (normal) or two, (preferred for wire handled hammers). There is constant controversy over rules in this class but chain length is strict, shorter for one handers, but local tradition dictates - probably between 16" and 22".

Weight for Height: a 56 lb weight with a triangular ring attached thrown over a bar. Like high jump, three fails and the competitor is out. This began on farms and mills where weights were used and many old walls and rafters show scars to bear witness of challenges. Styles vary according to the thrower's physique. There will be no applause if the bar is knocked off. The weight is meant to go over.

Tossing the Caber: stems from a Scottish tradition exported to North America. On marriage a man could cut his own timber when building his own home but the size of tree was determined by what he could fell and carry. Carriage was often impossible across streams and he had to toss it like a cartwheel to tip over forwards on the other side of the stream. If it fell back the tree was lost. The competition involves tossing the caber in as straight a line as possible i.e., 12:00 on a clock face. Distance is immaterial. Competition cabers are of pine, between 16 and 19 ft long, 120-200 lbs, and should have taper to represent a tree-trunk.

Each local group created their own rules, which still vary considerably. Most throws, whatever the missile, are now made from behind trigs or straight boards, allowing run-ups, or by slinging within a specified circle. Spiked or bladed boots are permitted and competitors train vigorously to provide the show of strength which pulls the public in, year after year.



The Clan Hope Society is offering these shirts as a service to our members.

They are a 50/50 blend of pre-shrunk cotton/polyester. These are polo styled shirts with a collar and no pocket. They are made by Hanes® and embroidered (not printed) with the Clan Hope Badge and the name "Hope" above it. This offering is primarily intended as a service to our members and friends in an effort to provide a quality shirt at a cost noticeably lower than alternative sources. Profits - if any - will go to the Clan Hope Society.

Order here: <http://www.clanhope.org/shirts.htm>



Clan Hope is presenting prints of this painting of Craighall Castle, traditional home of the Hopes of Craighall, for purchase. This image is available as a print on paper, a print on canvas and the single original.

Contact Brian C. Mack (lochvale@qwestoffice.net) of Loch Vale Fine Art (www.lochvalefineart.com) Or Chris Papp (presidentclanhope@gmail.com) for pricing and availability.

Remember Burns' Night, January 25

Address to a Haggis By Robert Burns

Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,
Great chieftain o' the puddin'-race!
Aboon them a' ye tak your place,
Painch, tripe, or thairm:
Weel are ye wordy o' a grace
As lang's my arm.

The groaning trencher there ye fill,
Your hurdies like a distant hill,
Your pin wad help to mend a mill
In time o' need,
While thro' your pores the dews distil
Like amber bead.

His knife see rustic Labour dight,
An' cut you up wi' ready sleight,
Trenching your gushing entrails bright,
Like ony ditch;
And then, O what a glorious sight,
Warm-reekin, rich!

Then, horn for horn,
they stretch an' strive:
Deil tak the hindmost! on they drive,
Till a' their weel-swallow'd kytes belyve,
Are bent lyke drums;
Then auld Guidman, maist like to rive,
"Bethankit!" 'hums.

Is there that owre his French ragout
Or olio that wad staw a sow,
Or fricassee wad mak her spew
Wi' perfect sconner,
Looks down wi' sneering, scornfu' view
On sic a dinner

Poor devil! see him ower his trash,
As feckless as a wither'd rash,
His spindle shank, a guid whip-lash,
His nieve a nit;
Thro' bloody flood or field to dash,
O how unfit!

But mark the Rustic, haggis fed,
The trembling earth resounds his tread.
Clap in his walie nieve a blade,
He'll mak it whistle;
An' legs an' arms, an' heads will sned,
Like taps o' thrissle.

Ye Pow'rs wha mak mankind your care,
And dish them out their bill o' fare,
Auld Scotland wants nae skinking ware
That jaups in luggies;
But, if ye wish her gratefu' prayer,
Gie her a haggis!

The translation

Fair is your honest happy face
Great chieftain of the pudding race
Above them all you take your place
Stomach, tripe or guts
Well are you worthy of a grace
As long as my arm

The groaning platter there you fill
Your buttocks like a distant hill
Your skewer would help to repair a mill
In time of need
While through your pores the juices emerge
Like amber beads

His knife, having seen hard labour, he wipes
And cuts you up with great skill
Digging into your gushing insides bright
Like any ditch
And then oh what a glorious sight
Warm steaming, rich

Then spoon for spoon
They stretch and strive
Devil take the last man, on they drive
Until all their well swollen bellies
Are bent like drums
Then, the old gent most likely to burp
Be thanked, mumbles

Is there anyone who over his French Ragout
Or olio that would sicken a pig
Or fricassee would make her vomit
With perfect disgust
Looks down with a sneering scornful opinion
on such a dinner

Poor devil, see him over his trash (food)
As weak as a withered rush (reed)
His spindle-shank a good whiplash
His clenched fist the size of a nut.
Through a bloody flood or battle field to flee
Oh how unfit

But take note of the strong haggis fed Scot
The trembling earth resounds his tread
Clasped in his large fist a blade
He'll make it whistle
And legs and arms and heads he will cut off
Like the tops of thistle

You powers who make mankind your care
And dish them out their meals
Old Scotland wants no watery food
That splashes in dishes
But if you wish her grateful prayer
Give her a haggis!

Traditional Scottish Recipes

Haggis

For your Burns' Night Festivities

Ingredients

1 sheep's stomach bag, 1½ cups oatmeal,
1 sheep's pluck - liver, lungs and heart
3 onions, 2½ cups beef Suet
pinch of cayenne, 1 cup of stock/gravy
salt and black pepper,

Directions

Clean the stomach bag thoroughly and soak overnight. In the morning turn it inside out. Wash the pluck and boil for 1.5 hours, ensuring the windpipe hangs over the pot allowing drainage of the impurities. Mince the heart and lungs and grate half the liver. Chop up the onions and suet. Warm the oatmeal in the oven. Mix all the above together and season with the salt and pepper. Then add the cayenne. Pour over enough of the pluck boiled water to make the mixture watery. Fill the bag with the mixture until it's half full. Press out the air and sew the bag up. Boil for 3 hours (you may need to prick the bag with a wee needle if it looks like blowing up!) without the lid on. Serve with neeps and tatties.

Scottish Humor

Homeless Man's Funeral

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Kentucky back country.

As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost and, being a typical man, I didn't stop for directions.

I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch.

I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late. I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play.

The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played my heart and soul out for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man.

And as I played 'Amazing Grace,' the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together. When I finished I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car.

Though my head hung low, my heart was full. As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen nothin' like that before and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

Postscript

We sincerely hope you will make this newsletter your own by contributing items relating to Hopes, Scots, history of either, genealogy or other related subjects. Please help us share our Hope and Scottish information among clan members and friends! We will accept anything that is original or has the origin cited in the piece. Submit anything you wish to have included in our newsletter to: gmhope@ufl.edu. We look forward to your contributions. Thanks in advance for sharing!