

## **A History of Clan Wallace Society-Worldwide Gatherings**

### **What is a Clan Wallace Gathering?**

It is a fun filled time for the Family of Wallace with camaraderie that can't be beat.

A Gathering is a unique blending of Scottish heritage and locale events and attractions. It's a biannual meeting of our members in a location designated by the board to significantly represent our Society. The event normally includes Festivals, Highland Games and other Scottish traditions. Each Gathering has been unique, with events planned to facilitate fellowship during activities that embrace our Scottish Heritage. Learning about the Wallace Family and Scotland's National Hero, William Wallace is the key to every gathering.

### **How did the Clan Wallace Gatherings Begin?**

#### **Halifax, Nova Scotia, 1999**

Tom Wallace initiated the idea of a Gathering in 1998 and approached the Board with a proposal to host an event in Halifax during 1999. Because there were so many activities happening in Halifax that year, he thought that it would be a great venue. He sure was right!!!! Tom orchestrated the 1<sup>st</sup> Bi-Annual Gathering in grand style. He arranged for Clan Wallace Society-Worldwide members to have tea with the Mayor of Halifax and tour the Nova Scotia Governor's Palace. The Wallaces attended the Military Tattoo on Canada Day as well as a parade in town. Tours of the area were arranged and attended by the group. There were Highland Games, a formal Banquet and a pub night.



Town Crier Announces  
the Wallaces at the  
Mayor's Reception



Gathering Initiator, Tom Wallace carries the  
Wallace Tartan Banner at the 1999  
Gathering, Halifax, Nova Scotia

## How did the Spirit of the Gathering Continue?

### Fergus, Ontario, 2001

Jamie Wallace of Newburgh Ontario and Tom Wallace of Nova Scotia put together the next Gathering two years later to continue the new Clan Wallace Society tradition. David Ross, the author of the book, *On the Trail of William Wallace*, was a guest of the Society and speaker.

The Fergus Highland Games were the centerpiece of the gathering. In addition the Wallaces visited an aviation museum, Niagara Falls, and a Legoland center. Jim Bowie Wallace is shown wearing an Egyptian funeral mask made out of Legos. There were many opportunities to socialize and a fantastic dinner.



Jim "Bowie" Wallace, the Lego Pharaoh



Author David Ross

### Reno Nevada, 2003

Having participated in the Halifax and Fergus Gatherings, Dick and Jan Wallace of Marysville, California thought it was time that the Gathering was held in the United States. They incorporated a whiskey tasting presented by John Wallace; a geneology class taught by Kay Caylor; The Reno Highland Games; a Banquet with professional entertainment; and a Kirkin of the Tartan conducted by Russ Caylor with a final farewell breakfast. Sight seeing and casinos were available and participates had enough free time to enjoy them. Many Wallaces formed small informal groups to sightsee.



Dick and Jan Were  
Piped Into the Banquet



Whiskey Tasting  
Jan serves Russ & Elmer

Up to this point the Gatherings were organized by individuals who approached the Board and said that they were willing to take on the responsibility of organizing the Gathering. It is a big responsibility with financial liabilities. The CWS Board decided it would be proactive in assisting and organizing the future Gatherings.

### Scotland, 2005

2005 was the 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Wallace's Martyrdom-----What a wonderful time for Clan Wallace to go to Scotland. So the plans began with The Board deciding a professional tour company would make the arrangements directed by the CWS Board working with Clan Wallace Society event coordinator, Lois Wallace.

Fifty Wallaces were on a bus and several families followed in cars on the inaugural Clan Wallace Society trip to the home of their ancestors. A pre tour attended The Abernathy Games, toured the Grant Distillery, Culloden, Loch Ness, Loch Lomond, Inverness and the Isle of Sky to get the flavor of Scotland. The main tour concentrated on William Wallace by visiting his birthplace in Elderslie, The National Wallace Monument, Stirling Castle and the Smith Museum. The group participated in the Wallace 700 Parade in Aberdeen and the following wreath laying ceremony at the Wallace Statue. CPT John Wallace presented the Society wreath. Local children performed a pageant which depicted William Wallace's life. The Provost of Aberdeen held a reception for the Wallaces. A dinner with Chief's son Andrew (heir apparent) in Edinburgh was an opportunity to get to know our next chief.



Smith Museum with the  
Provost (Mayor) of Stirling



Capt. John presenting the Clan Wallace  
Society Wreath at the Wallace700  
Ceremonv in Aberdeen



The Rosslyn Chapel, St. Andrews Golf Course, The Scottish Parliament Building with the Freedom Papers, Edinburgh Fringe Festival entertainers, Edinburgh Castle and the Military Tattoo were other highlights of the Gathering.



Dumbarton Castle



Tattoo at Edinburgh Castle

### **Williamsburg, Virginia 2007**

John Wallace, as President of CWS, formed a committee headed by Lisa Deiss, newly elected to the Board to organize the [2007 Gathering in Williamsburg](#). See the link for all the events she and her committee have planned. Hope you will join us in the memorable occasion.



### **Next Gathering - Location TBD 2009**

A committee is already at work screening potential venues to recommend a short list of candidate sites to the board in September 2007.