



TCFA Chvairt Litr (TCFA Newsletter)

Tucson Celtic Festival Association



Website: TucsonCelticFestival.org

Editor: Jack Hamilton

Email: Tonoham@comcast.net

Date: May 14, 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS...

The next TCFA meeting will be held on May 18, 2019, at St. Pius X Church, 1800 N Camino Pio Decimo.



RESULTS OF THE FIRST TCFA GOLF TOURNEY

The TCFA's first *Halfway to the Highlands Golf Tournament* is now history. On May 11, twenty-eight golfers teed off at Omni Tucson National Resort at 730a and one could not have asked for better conditions. It took the normal 4 hours and they all returned to the clubhouse to eat lunch and scan their raffle tickets for winners. Brigid Gannon, our tournament consultant and Senior Marketer, heard from many of the golfers about what a great time they had. She will be thanking the golfers, sponsors, TCFA volunteers and Charlie Lujan for their support. Below are several pictures taken by TCFA member Alexandra MacPherson-Munro.



Chances are they are of Canadian descent



Golfers, including member Mike Foley in green at the drink cart



TCFA President Pederson, TCFA members Andrew and Jack Hamilton

BOARD ACTION ON CHARITY OF THE YEAR SELECTION

The TCFA Board of Directors will consider the following three charities and make their selection: *Mentoring Tucson's Kids*, *Project Insight* and *Treasures 4 Teachers in Tucson*. Copies of each charity's application have been emailed to the Board to look at and pick the one they favor.



MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Erin Haugen

I was born in Tucson, Arizona to James and Darcy Morrison and have two older sisters. This year, I celebrated my 15th anniversary to a wonderful (and very tall) man and we have an amazing twelve-year-old son. I have been a proud member of the Tucson Celtic Festival Association for eight years and during that time have served as volunteer coordinator, secretary, member at large and festival manager. I hold a degree in video and film production and have a background in creative writing, marketing and graphic design. Last June my family and I travelled throughout Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England and Paris. It was the trip of a lifetime.

I had heard from several friends that when you go to Scotland it feels like you are at home, and, in my experience, it turned out to be true. We arrived in Glasgow and traveled up to the Isle of Skye (where my ancestors hail from) through Glencoe. The countryside was so beautiful. Everything was green and amazing. Despite my husband's terrifying experience of driving on the "wrong" side of the road, we were thrilled to be in Scotland for the first time.

Around 8:30 PM and two miles from our destination for the evening, the village of Dunvegan, our tire exploded. The rental car did not have a spare, so we waited by the roadside for two hours for a tow truck to take us to Portree for repairs.

During that time, many locals stopped to offer their assistance. Some offered us a ride, some offered to stay with us while we waited and all of them were eager to help in any way they could. They were so friendly it made the almost constant attacks by the midges somewhat bearable. At one point a herd of sheep wandered by, stared blankly at us through a fence then moved on into the night.

By midnight, the tire repairs were complete, and we arrived at our accommodations for the evening (the very kind owners had left our key for us so we wouldn't be stranded out in the cold). We went right to sleep, grateful the minor setback on our trip was behind us.

The next day we drove around the Isle of Skye being truly amazed by its beauty and the friendliness of the people. We visited Fairy Glen, Kilt Rock, the Quiraing, Old Man of Storr and even a red telephone booth in the middle of nowhere. We ate haggis from a food truck at Kilt Rock and I did feel at home there.

We left later that day and headed to Inverness before going on to Edinburgh, England and France for the rest of our visit. As we crossed over the bridge that connects the Isle of Skye to the rest of Scotland, I felt sad to leave but was grateful for the memories my family and I will always share. I would like to say thank you to the residents of Scotland and even to those sheep that made waiting for a tow truck in the middle of somewhere all worthwhile.



CELTIC HISTORY AND CULTURE

Part 2: Celtic Warriors

The Celts loved war. The Romans and Greeks were infamous for their warring abilities, but little is known by the average person about the abilities of the Celtic tribes. The first findings of Celtic warriors appeared in Greece, Italy and the Mediterranean islands around 400 BC. Celtic speaking-tribes once controlled much of Europe north of the Alps before the rise of the Roman Empire. In 390 BC, the Celtic tribes ravaged Rome and occupied the city for 3 months until the Celts were so offended by the city's dirtiness, demanded ransom to leave the city. The Romans were so concerned about the Celt warriors that it took 500 years before they achieved security from the Celtic threat.

Some researchers wrote that the Celtic warriors were fierce, barbaric and savage fighters. Because the Celts were taller and more muscular than their opponents, their battle tactics included making themselves look even larger by spiking their long hair or wearing helmets with horns. Additionally, their attacks were ferocious with plenty of screaming like banshees to terrify their enemies. Some Celtic tribes went so far as to fight their battles naked and dyed blue from head to toe. Their reputation started to precede them against the Romans and the Greeks.

Polybius, a Greek historian, describes a contingent at the battle of Telamon. They went into battle with only sword and shield. Camillus had earlier captured some of these naked Celtic warriors and showed them to the Romans saying, according to Appian: 'These are the creatures who assail you with such terrible cries in battle, bang their swords and spears on their shields to make a din, and shake their long sword and toss their hair'.

The Celts became proficient in their use of iron in weaponry and self-protection. Their weaponry existed of spears, javelins, harpoons, bows, slings all for long distance fighting but for close-in fighting the Celts became very proficient in their short swords. In Spain, the Celts became master swordsmen accustomed to up-close fighting using their short swords.

Their distinctive long shields, chest plates and swords were heavily decorated. The Celts did something with their shields that was unexpected by the Romans, the shields were built so they could be locked together like an impregnable wall. The Romans discovered that their old-style shields had to be modified to accomplish this tactic. It is thought that initially, the shield decoration was so elaborately embellished that it was primarily for use by the Celtic nobles. The cheek and neck guards on their helmets was their invention as well as chain armor. They also developed a 2-handed hammer which in close fighting was very effective by swinging back and forth.

The Celts, in the early days, fought on foot, but since they had a great love for their horses, whether they were used for transportation, farming or warfare, developed a 2-horse light-weight chariot that was capable of carrying two; one as the driver and the other, the warrior. Entering a battle, after racing towards the enemy with reckless abandon to scare them, the warrior would throw spears then dismount to fight with the heavy sword. The driver would retreat to watch the battle and if the warrior was killed or needed help, would return and do what was needed.

The Celts were fond believers in headhunting so after be-heading their opponent, they would hang the head on their belt or the horse's harness as a display of their prowess and valor.

In the years following, Celtic warriors were so respected, they fought for many countries as mercenaries, as well as being private guards for Cleopatra.

Next Issue: CELTIC HISTORY AND CULTURE Part 3: Celtic Women



A reminder that our association is a corporate member of Tucson Kiwanis and when you get the urge to volunteer at their events, please contact Greg Landers. Their meetings are held each Friday at the Viscount Hotel, 4855 East Broadway Blvd at noon for lunch. Any TCFA member is welcome and only pays for their lunch. You can also email them at KiwaniisTucson@gmail.com.

Part of your Celtic Experience...

*May the blessing of light be on you –
light without and light within.
May the blessed sunlight shine on you
and warm your heart
til it glows like a great peat fire.*