

38TH ANNUAL SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

On Saturday 6 December 2008 Clan Macnachtan members gathered in Alexandria, Virginia, to take part in the annual Scottish Christmas Walk. Bob Roser is going to lead our merry band and is shown here tuning his bagpipes.

Figure 1. Bob Roser tunes up and the dog at the tail end of the group in front is alarmed.



The temperature never got out of the thirties, so I cheated on my Bonnie Prince Charlie attire by wearing long underwear and substituting a long-sleeved cotton turtle-neck for the usual white shirt, black bow tie, studs and cufflinks. While waiting an hour for the parade to start, I added a fleece top under my jacket and a wool scarf wrapped around my ears. During the march I put the charcoal scarf around my neck and stuck a heat patch on the back of each hand underneath black leather gloves. My ancillary supplies were concealed in a small black backpack. Not really a hardy Scots approach but those of us with mixed blood have to improvise.

Figure 2. Ken McNaughton cheats on his Bonnie Prince Charlie attire to defeat the cold.

Figure 3. The Clan is gathering; Melinda Appel and David Williams follow Bob with the horizontal Macnachtan banner; Cindy Roser, District Commissioner for Virginia, carries the vertical one.



Figure 4. A band of ruffians was behind us but the Macnachtans kept a brisk pace and stayed out of their way.

We will be walking six blocks on St. Asaph St. from Wilkes to Queen, three blocks to Fairfax, two blocks to King St., and two more blocks to the reviewing stand. This route is lined with beautiful historic residences originally laid out in 1749.

Figure 5. The whole gang is here.



Figure 6. David McCracken kept the crowd amused with his spontaneous dancing and booty shaking. David is originally from Glasgow and was joined by his daughter Fiona and her husband Peter Meyers.

There were 145 units and we were No. 100. Willard Scott and the Lord Provost of Scotland lead the parade. Many clans were represented, as well as pipe-and-drum bands, civic organizations, hounds and terriers. The crowd was estimated at 30,000. People lined the streets on both sides and many waved and cheered us on. Cindy’s daughter and some friends yelled out. Someone commented that the Macnachtans were well disciplined.

As we drew level with the reviewing stand we were announced over the public address system—“Clan Macnachtan Association Worldwide”—to the Governor, Mayor, Senators, Members of Congress and other dignitaries. Then we dispersed to various pubs, homes of friends and relatives, and a party on South Alfred Street.

The Macnachtan Clan is moving on!

Figure 7. On King St. in historic Old Town Alexandria, just before the reviewing stand, Ken marches with Judge Ben Kendrick and Robin Kendrick.



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