

History of Clan Cunningham, USA

Our first year: May 2002 – May 2003

Clan Cunningham, USA (CCUSA) was formed in early spring 2002 when a few concerned individuals split from Clan Cunningham Society of America and formed a new organization. CCUSA was incorporated in the State of Tennessee on 20 May 2002. Nine individuals assumed the positions of the Board of Directors: David Pickens, President; William D. Cunningham, Vice-President; Margie Cheatham, Secretary-Treasurer; Carole Bishop, Membership Coordinator; Dr Bill Cunningham, Historian; Beverly Lueke, Webmaster; Kathy Nye, Newsletter Editor; Julie Cunningham, Genealogist; and Jerry Lester, Delegate-at-Large.

The Board conducts its meetings using the CommunityZero Website chat room. Meetings were held on: 2 June 2002, 16 June 2002, 7 July 2002, 29 September 2002, 26 January 2003, 2 March 2003, 30 March 2003 and 27 April 2003. Delegate-at-Large, Jerry Lester, drafted the By-Laws and the Board of Directors voted and approved them at the 16 June 2002 meeting. Also at this meeting, the Board voted on granting honorary membership to George and Jane MacMillan, current owners of Finlaystone House in Langbank, Renfrewshire. In September 2002 CCUSA registered with the Council of Scottish Clan Associations (COSCA).

The first issue of the Unicorn newsletter was published in July 2002. It featured articles on Liliias Day, by Dr Bill Cunningham, The Lost District of Cunningham, by Carole Bishop, and The Celtic Computer, by Beverly Lueke, which has become a regular feature. Subsequent issues were distributed in October 2002, January 2003 and April 2003. The October 2002 issue featured information and photos from various Highland Games, and other family events, as well as articles by Carole Bishop on The Versatile St Andrew, and American Towns named Cunningham. The January issue featured Robert Burns, with articles by David Pickens and Carole Bishop. There were also many photos from the Pleasanton, Salado and Stone Mountain games, and an article by Jon Czarowitz on “Why do we go the Games?” The Spring 2003 issue focused on our clan tartans, with articles by David Pickens and Carole Bishop, and a list of Games for 2003.

CCUSA sponsored a Clan Tent at the following Festivals, Highland Games and other venues during our first year:

Savannah, GA	May 2002	Ray & Jerry Stocks
Murray, UT	June 2002	Kathy Nye
Fort Wayne, IN	June 2002	Pat & Shawn Paisley
South Bend, IN	July 2002	Bill & Venita Cunningham
Kalamazoo, MI	Aug 2002	Bill & Venita Cunningham
San Francisco, CA	Aug 2002	Jerry Lester
Pleasanton, CA	Aug 2002	Jerry & Kathy Lester, Don & Holly Cunningham
Ligonier, PA	Sept 2002	David Pickens & Carole Bishop
Tulsa, OK	Sept 2002	Bob & Anna Cunningham
Middle Tennessee	Oct 2002	David Pickens & Carole Bishop
Stone Mountain, GA	Oct 2002	David Pickens, Carole Bishop & Sarah Carpenter

Salado, TX	Nov 2002	Julie Cunningham & Jon Czarowitz
Loch Norman, NC	Apr 2003	Pickens, Luekes, Cheathams
Las Vegas, NV	Apr 2003	Jerry & Kathy Lester
Savannah, GA	May 2003	Ray & Jerry Stocks

By the end of the first year, there were ___ members in CCUSA, from ___ states and Scotland.

In April 2003, Dr Bill Cunningham and Carole Bishop switched positions with the approval of the Board.