

## Utah Scottish Festival & Highland Games

The 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Utah Scottish Festival & Highland Games took place at the State Fairgrounds on the outskirts of Salt Lake City from June 8th through June 10th. It was the second year of the Games at this venue, after having moved from their historic location at Thanksgiving Point near Lehi, Utah, and all participants welcomed the availability of large brick buildings (air conditioned and with “real” bathrooms) for use by many of the Games’ activities. The wisdom of the move was especially evident on Saturday when the temperature soared into the 90s!

Over 40 Clans and other Scottish societies were present this year and our collective Tents ringed the Fair’s Parade Grounds. Though Saturday was hot, Friday evening and Sunday were balmy and all three days were free of rain. As a result the crowds were heavy and we continued to have more Montgomerys sign in at our Tent than at any of the other Games we cover in the Rockies Region.

One pleasant but unusual event occurred when the color guard from the Scottish American Military Society marched on at the head of the massed bands, and we saw that the bearer of the American flag wore a Montgomery Tartan! That soldier turned out to be Sergeant Kendall Sorensen of the Army National Guard whose Grandmother was a Montgomery. When he visited our Tent later we reminded him of our Norman/Viking heritage and pointed out that the “sen” in his name meant that he had a connection with the Danes through both the Sorensen and Montgomery families.

Ed and Lucia Montgomery



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Editor’s note: black and white here doesn’t do justice to the Montgomery colors actually worn.



Below: John Seymour Montgomery and Lucia Montgomery in conversation with honored guest MGen David Lowthian of the Royal Canadian Air Force who is the Director of Operations for NORAD in Colorado Springs



## Longs Peak Scottish Irish Highland Festival 2018

The 42nd annual Longs Peak Scottish Irish Highland Festival was held at Estes Park, Colorado, from September 6th through 9th in beautiful Colorado fall weather. The crowds were heavy and 96 Clans were represented. As usual, several thousand people watched the traditional Saturday morning parade through downtown Estes Park. The parade is long but, happily, downhill the whole way – as those of us who attended the AGMs there in 1997 and 2008 will well remember.

With our ranks swelled by AGM attendees in 1997 we won the “large Clan” trophy for our marching in the parade, and with only local Montgomerys participating in other years we won the “small Clan” marching trophy in 2015 and (to our surprise) won again this year in 2018!

Again we had the pleasure of presenting the Eglinton Cup trophy provided annually by our Clan to the jousting tournament overall champion in memory of the Eglinton tournament in 1839, the labor of love put on by Archibald William Montgomerie, our 13th Clan chief. This year was an even greater pleasure, however, as the champion was a Montgomery!

Tom Montgomery won this year’s tournament on Nala, his brown Belgian Quarter Horse who weighs 1700 pounds and stands 17 hands high. Tom is the head of the Imperial Knights Production Company that provides knights and horses for fairs and films dealing with combat of the Middle Ages.

Submitted by Ed Montgomery

